THE NEW
INDIAN EXPRESS
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BOOST HEALTH INFRA TO PREVENT ANOTHER COVID SURGE: WHO

The WHO has called upon countries in the Asia region to scale up public health infrastructure, implement social measures and make efforts to accelerate vaccination to prevent another Covid surge. "We need to continuously strengthen our efforts to test, trace and isolate. Physical distancing, hand hygiene and wearing of masks need to be implemented," said Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.

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Sri B.S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

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Corona Will Lose, India Will Win

- Free COVID-19 vaccination for everyone above 18 years of age begins in India today
- So far, vaccines were free for people of 45 years age and above
- Vaccines will be available free of cost in government-run vaccination centres
- Government of India is providing free vaccines to all states
- Central government has provided 30 crore vaccine doses so far
- Three vaccines approved in India so far, several new vaccines in approval process

Get Vaccinated, Stay Safe

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Visit **www.cowin.gov.in** to register and get full details on vaccination centres and vaccines
Follow COVID-appropriate behaviour even after vaccination

"Central Government is beginning the Free Vaccination For All campaign for every Indian from today. The biggest beneficiary of this phase of India's vaccination drive shall be the poor, the middle class and the youth of the country. All of us should pledge to get ourselves vaccinated. Together we will defeat COVID-19."

Sri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

TOGETHER LET US DEFEAT COVID-19,
GET YOURSELF VACCINATED AS PER YOUR TURN

As is enshrined in our Constitution to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

karnataka information
Department of Information and Public Relations

JAGGI VASUDEV

THE United Nations has declared that June 21 will be celebrated every year as International Yoga Day. The resolution was co-sponsored by 175 of the 193 member nations, and was so popular that it did not have to go for a vote and was adopted by an acclamation.

Here is Sadhguru's message on this important event.

Yoga is the exploration of the very mechanics of life. It predates all religion and opened the possibility of raising a human being beyond limitations set by nature, if willing to strive. Making the science of Yoga available in the purest form is the responsibility of this generation. This science of inner development, wellbeing and liberation is the greatest gift for future generations. Congratulations to the Prime Minister for having initiated the process for declaring June 21 International Yoga Day.

The word "yoga" literally means union. Yoga does not mean twisting of body, tying limbs into knots, holding of breath or doing some other circus. The word "yoga" means, in one's experience, everything has become one. It is a system of raising human ability to perceive, to enhance individual human beings to realise their ultimate nature. Yoga is the most profound exploration of the very mechanics of life.

International Yoga Day is coming at a crucial time. The yogic science is of utmost significance now, like never before. Today we have tremendous tools of science and technology, enough to make or break the world. It is very important that we have an inner sense and awareness of life, that we experience every other being as a part of ourselves. Otherwise, our pursuit of wellbeing will destroy all.

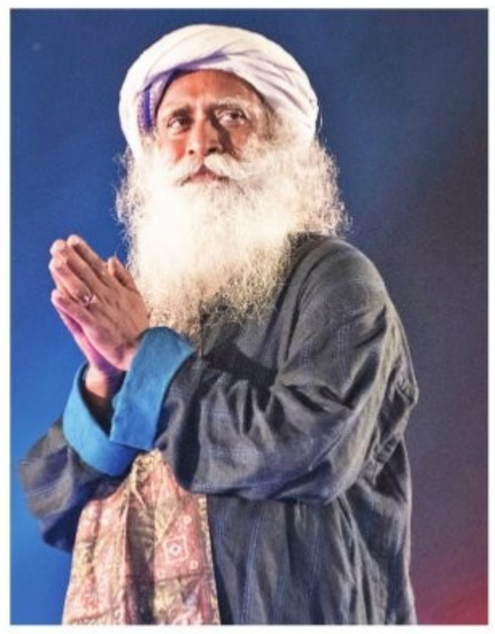
If a certain population in the world experiences this, if a certain percentage of the world truly becomes meditative, definitely the quality of the world will change. Particularly if the leadership in the world experiences the unity or the yoga of life, there will be a dramatic change in the way the world will function. For all the problems of humanity, the solution is in enlarging one's perception of life, from individuality to universality. The declaration of International Yoga Day is a significant step in this direction, and can have a ripple-effect across the planet.

Acknowledging yoga in this way will be immensely beneficial, particularly for the youth. Nowadays, a lot of young people are taking to yoga because it is usually the youth in the world who have a passion for truth. Youth is humanity in the making. Because they are in the making, they can shape themselves in whichever manner they want. If only youth are taught to handle themselves with a little more consciousness, then they are a great possibility. Otherwise, youth can be very compulsive. If they become a little more conscious, we have a great future for humanity and also the environment around us.

Ecology and human consciousness cannot be separated. The first fundamental fact of looking inward is always to see that you are naturally very much a part of everything around you. But now the problem is we are always trying to look at life in pieces – and that will never work. Only because human beings have become insensitive, we have to talk today about saving the world, which is a silly idea because it is we who are protected by Mother Earth, not the other way round! None of this would be necessary if human beings understood that, whether we like it or not, we are reverberating as a part of this existence.

Yoga is an essential science to bring this understanding and experience. This knowledge was transmitted thousands of years ago by the first yogi or Adiyogi. On the day of the summer solstice, Adiyogi turned south and first set his eyes on the Saptarishis or Seven Sages, who were his first disciples to carry the science of yoga to many parts of the world. It is wonderful that June 21 marks this momentous event in the history of humanity.

The author has been teaching yoga since 1982



"Only because human beings have become insensitive, we have to talk today about saving the world, which is a silly idea because it is we who are protected by Mother Earth, not the other way round!"

—SADHGURU

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₹4L RELIEF TO COVID VICTIMS NOT DOABLE, CENTRE TELLS SC

The govt's affidavit expressed inability to offer the proposed ex gratia as it would exhaust the disaster relief funds of states

COULD AFFECT PANDEMIC RESPONSE: GOVT

The Union home ministry was responding to a plea seeking minimum standards of relief to the relatives of Covid-19 victims. "Utilisation of scarce resources for giving ex-gratia, may have unfortunate consequences of affecting the pandemic response and health expenditure in other aspects and hence cause more damage than good," the affidavit said

'DON'T ENCROACH ON EXECUTIVE'S DOMAIN'

- The Centre said it is the authority that decides on such matters. This is not a matter where the Supreme Court should substitute its own judgment in place of the Executive's decision, it argued
- The affidavit said the term ex gratia means it's not based on legal entitlement. The matter will be heard by the SC on Monday

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GIVEN TO STATES THROUGH NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION FOR COVID THIS YEAR

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Genome sequencing needs private sector help

Present process too slow at a time when the Coronavirus is mutating fast, warn experts

KARNATAKA	JUNE 19	JUNE 20
Fresh cases	5,815	4,517
Recoveries	11,832	8,456
Deaths	161	120

Walk-in vaccinations

Walk-in vaccinations for the 18-44 age group will begin from Monday as the Centre has relaxed its norms. Pre-registration on CoWIN app is no longer required

NATIONWIDE	JUNE 19	JUNE 20
Fresh cases	60,753	58,419
Recoveries	97,743	87,619
Deaths	1,647	1,576

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

AT a time when the SARS-CoV-2 virus has mutated into its Delta-plus variant and the third wave is looming, genome sequencing to detect the variants quicker with more sampling has taken a hit.

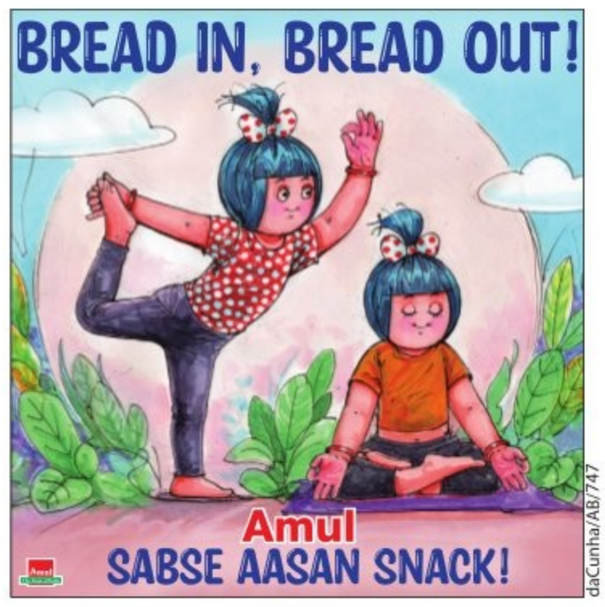
Experts have blamed it on the general fund crunch, lack of availability of scientists and lack of trust of private labs which are better equipped in sequencing. This is happening at a crucial time when public-private efforts should have quickened the pace and expanded the efforts to detect virus variants.

A senior virologist, who is also part of INSACOG labs, said, "Some countries like the UK are sequencing 50-60 per cent of all positive samples, but India is sequencing less than 1 per cent against a target of 5 per cent it set. The major problem is that public health labs, like NIMHANS, NCBS (National Centre for Biological Sciences) and IISc (Indian Institute of Science), which are currently with INSACOG, do genome sequencing more for academic knowledge or for research alone. We need quicker sequencing as the virus is mutating. We have seen how the delta variant which was found first in India has created havoc in several countries. We need to catch these mutations fast. That's why we have to involve private players."

On the government's lack of trust in private labs, Prof Vijay Chandru, adjunct professor, IISc, commissioner at Lancet Citizen's Commission, member of Karnataka's Genome Sequencing Committee, and also co-founder of Strand Life Sciences, said, "The same thing happened during the onset of Covid when testing was not handed over to private labs. But ultimately they had to do it." P6

KSRTC, BMTC resume bus services today

The KSRTC on Sunday said it is planning to operate 3,000 buses initially from Monday, with the State Government permitting bus operations. Similarly, in Bengaluru, the BMTC will run about 2,000 starting Monday. P5



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First cabinet meet today after the dissent storm

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister BS Yediyurappa has called for a cabinet meeting on Monday, which will be the first time ministers will come together after BJP General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Arun Singh's visit to the State last week.

The cabinet meeting is being held at a time when lockdown restrictions have been relaxed in several districts and there is a growing concern over possible flash floods in parts of North Karnataka due to heavy rains in Maharashtra.

Monday's meeting is expected to be stormy with Yediyurappa keen on establishing his authority following reports of many ministers complaining against his style of functioning in their one-on-one meetings with Arun Singh.

With a cabinet reshuffle on the cards post-Arun Singh's return to New Delhi, the CM is said to be keen on dropping a couple of ministers for "indiscipline". Talks are also on about the possible re-induction of former Water Resources Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi into the cabinet. Jarkiholi's visit to Mumbai has upped curiosity about his next move.

While routine project approvals are on the cards, ministers are also expected to be tasked with the additional responsibility of supervising mass Covid vaccination drives in their respective in-charge districts.

Water being released from Kadra Dam near Karwar. The cabinet is expected to discuss the flood situation in the State on Monday | EXPRESS

India rebuts UN concerns on IT rules

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

INDIA on Sunday rebuffed concerns raised by the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) that the country's new IT rules may hamper freedom of speech, saying such concerns were misplaced and the new rules were designed to empower ordinary users of social media.

India's Permanent Mission to the UN told the Special Procedures Branch of the UNHRC that the country's democratic credentials are well recognised and the new rules were finalised after consultations with various stakeholders, according to a statement issued by the IT ministry.

"The right to freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. The independent judiciary and a robust media are part of India's democratic structure," the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said in the statement.

"The rules are designed to empower ordinary users of social media. The victims of abuse on social media platforms shall have a forum for redressal of their grievances," it said.

The special branch of the UNHRC had on June 11 raised concerns on a number of provisions in the new IT rules saying they do not appear to meet the requirement of international law and standards related to the right to privacy and freedom of speech and expression as protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, acceded to by India on April 10, 1979.

Five held for bid to 'sacrifice' 10-yr-old girl in Nelamangala

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Nelamangala Rural police on Sunday detained five people, including two women and a priest, who allegedly tried to sacrifice a 10-year-old girl from their neighbourhood to "ward off evil". The accused however denied the charges, claiming they were only conducting a 'puja' ahead of a stone laying ceremony for a temple for which they had taken the help of the minor girl, as mandated by a priest.

The girl's parents who are daily wage labourers, alleged in their complaint that the accused had kidnapped the minor girl from in front of her house in Gandhi Grama near Nelamangala.

A senior police officer said they detained the accused after conducting a thorough investigation. P7

Fresh CBM to draw J&K leaders to meet

FAYAZ WANI @Srinagar

A day after the Centre sought to rev up political activity in J&K by calling an all-party meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on June 24, authorities shifted detained PDP leader Waheed Para to Srinagar as a confidence building measure (CBM).

Another senior PDP leader and Mehbooba Mufti's maternal uncle Sartaj Madni was released as a 'goodwill gesture'on Saturday after nearly six months of detention. The twin gestures are expected to brighten the chances of Mufti attending the meet.

Deal street

Mufti had made her participation in the Delhi meet conditional to the release of Sartaj Madni and Waheed Para. While Madni was released on Saturday, Para was shifted to a Srinagar Jail on Sunday

With the Opposition Gupkar alliance deciding to hold its strategy session on Tuesday, major J&K political players on Sunday went into a huddle with their senior party leaders to take a call on participation. PDP's Political Affairs Committee was largely in favour of Mufti attending the Delhi meet, but party spokesman Suhail Bukhari said the final decision will be taken after Tuesday's meeting.

The Centre has invited 14 J&K leaders for the meet. While there is no ambiguity on the participation of 10, it remains to be seen whether Farooq Abdullah, his son Omar, Mufti — under detention in 2019 — and Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami would attend it.

KUMBH TESTING SCAM: SLEEPING AT THE WHEEL

VINEET UPADHYAY @Dehradun

THERE were clear red flags of Covid-19 testing irregularities in Haridwar during the Kumbh mela in April, but they don't appear to have stirred the authorities into action, resulting in the testing scam being unearthed only last week.

Official data analysed by this newspaper of testing and positivity rate during April 1-30, the duration of the Maha Kumbh 2021, showed that Haridwar conducted more tests than the rest of the state, but the number of positive cases detected was far less.

During April 1-30, a total of 6,00,291 tests were conducted in Haridwar, of which only 17,375 positive cases were detected. During the same period, the rest of the 12 districts of the state conducted 4,42,432 tests and this showed 62,735 positive cases.

In terms of percentage, almost 60% of all Covid tests in April was conducted in Haridwar, but they were able to detect alarmingly fewer positive cases than the rest of the state.

The state's positivity rate during April mirrors the new cases. An analysis of the official data showed Uttarakhand's average positivity rate during the month was 14.18% while that of Haridwar district was 2.89%. That means Haridwar's positivity rate during the Maha Kumbh was 80% less than the rest of state. CONTINUED ON: P9

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OLYMPIC SUPPORT

Sports ministry requests, BCCI donates ₹10cr

VENKATA KRISHNA B @Chennai

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has decided to donate ₹10 crore to the Sports Ministry to support the Indian contingent that will take part in the upcoming Tokyo Olympics, scheduled to start on July 23. Interestingly, the majority of the funds will be used for promotional activities of the Olympic-bound athletes. The BCCI will directly pay the agency handling the promotional campaign.

On receiving the request from the ministry, the BCCI made the decision at an emergent Apex Council meet on Sunday. During the meeting, the BCCI also decided to form a commmittee to decide on the compensation package for domestic cricketers.

The Sports Ministry's request to BCCI to fund promotional activity is curious. Does it mean the ministry lack funds?

For its part, the ministry said its funding essentially goes towards sports development activities and not event promotion. But apparently, the ministry is keen on creating buzz ahead of the Olympics, where it expects a record haul of medals, hence the outreach.

"BCCI is helping the ministry on that front too. The campaign is handled by a private agency and the BCCI will pay them directly," said the ministry.

The BCCI will also place expressions of interest to the ICC to host the 2028 T20 World Cup, 2031 WC and 2025 Champions Trophy.

Based on the request received from the IOA/ MYAS, the Apex Council of BCCI has decided to extend support to the IOA and has pledged a monetary gesture of ₹10 crores

Jay Shah, BCCI secretary

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BENGALURU

04 BENGALURU | MONDAY 21.06.2021 | newindianexpress.com

ALMANAC TODAY

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• **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

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Moonrise 3.20 pm
Moonset 2.28 am

UGC questions Christ University over online exams

Asks it to reconsider; students not happy with proctored mode of evaluation

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA
@ Bengaluru

THE regional office of the University Grants Commission (UGC) has questioned the decision of Christ deemed-to-be-university to conduct its end semester examinations in the online format. In a letter to the university, the UGC South West Regional Office also brought into question the institute's mode of evaluation.

The letter was based on complaints the commission's office received from the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) and from students. The students' body had sought that the university not rely on artificial intelligence (AI) and proctored mode (invigilated online) of evaluation. NSUI suggested alternative methods of examination such as open book and assignment-based ones, and also demanded that it be taken into confidence while framing the policy for evaluation.

Students had only around four weeks of classes to complete almost 70-75 per cent of the syllabus, resulting in the syllabus of many subjects remaining unfinished

UGC South West Regional Office

UGC education officer Latha KC confirmed to *The New Indian Express* that the university was asked to consider the students' requests, and not "target them". "If the institute fails to implement these directions, it could invite punitive action," the letter states.

The regional office asked the university to reconsider holding its online remote proctored end-term examinations as the move was an "unilateral policy formulated without consulting the students or taking into account the students' best interests".

It pointed out that students did not have access to the library after physical classes were suspended, and some teachers did not even provide proper study material. The syllabus was not also completed before the examinations, it said in the letter. "Students had only around four weeks of classes to complete almost 70-75 per cent of the syllabus, resulting in the syllabus of many subjects remaining unfinished," said the letter.

The proposed remote proctored examination is not a sound evaluation policy, it added about the AI's technological limitations failing to account for practical difficulties of students, and requiring them to have uninterrupted electricity and internet connections.

Latha said that the university was yet to respond to the letter. "Although there are separate bureaus (for deemed-to-be-universities), here the complaint was by students during the pandemic, and the regional offices should respond," she said.

Christ Vice-Chancellor Dr Fr Abraham VM told *The New Indian Express* that students were given a chance to write physically proctored examination if they were unable to attend the online one. "How can they (UGC regional office) ask us to adhere to the NSUI's demand?" he said, adding that the exams started for the junior semesters on Friday, and was attended by 1,430 out of 1,450 students.

Meanwhile, the university's student council stated that it has been kept informed and was consulted on holding the exams through the online software Mettl platform.

CITY GOES BACK ON TRACK

With business all set to resume following the state government's announcement of more relaxation of lockdown restrictions from Monday, a worker sanitises a coach at Baiyappanahalli Metro Station on Sunday in preparation for services to resume. Right: A gym trainer cleans up equipment in Seshadripuram | NAGARAJA GADEKAL, SHRIRAMBN

Miyawaki forest getting ruined with untreated sewage from apartment

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

IN December last year, a unique 'Miyawaki' forest with 2,000 saplings set its roots in a common park area for numerous apartments in the Jigani-Bommasandra Link Road. But within just six months, the upcoming green spot with the unique Japanaese method of tree plantation aimed at improving the environment, now stinks. Even proper growth of the trees is doubtful due to the huge quantity of untreated sewage being discharged near it daily allegedly by a sprawling residential complex nearby.

Members of Samrakshana Foundation Trust, comprising many residents around the area, had approached the Jigani police over the issue of sewage dumping, allegedly by the 700-apartment DLF Maiden Heights. "We were told to first approach the Hennagara panchayat and ask them to send a notice to the apartment and file a police complaint later. Hence, we did that and a notice has been sent by the panchayat to the residential complex too," said its founder-member Tushar Chandra.

Untreated sewage water being released in the park in Jigani

Chandra claimed that the Sewage Treatment Plant in the apartment had stopped working many months ago. "It used to work on and off. They have stealthily connected a pipe from their homes to this common area for the sewage to flow out," he alleged.

Yogendra Hari Tripathi, a resident of another apartment, said that there the entire place stinks due to the discharge of sewage.

A representative of DLF Maiden Heights admitted that the STP was not in a working condition due to overload issues. "The sewage discharged daily by our apartments is collected in 17 or 18 tankers and is sent outside the area," he claimed and added that he does not know where the sewage was being taken by the contractor.

₹8k cr paid as compensation for Metro Phase-II land acquisition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A total of 3,033 properties have been acquired by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) for its Phase 2, 2A (Outer Ring Road) and 2B (airport) lines, according to its newsletter.

"Of this, Rs 6,467.38 crore has been paid as compensation for Metro Phase-2, Rs 36,551 crore for Phase-2A and Rs 1,288.47 crore for Phase-2B," it said. In addition, Rs 78.55 crore has been paid as rehabilitation benefit for 722 owners and 2,315 tenants.

Rs 6,467.38 crore has been paid as compensation for Metro Phase-2, Rs 36,551 crore for Phase-2A and Rs 1,288.47 crore for Phase-2B

BMRCL newsletter

Its progress report on the status of civil works specified that Reach 2 of the 72.1-km Phase II Line had made maximum progress. While 95 per cent work has been completed for the Reach 2A between Mysuru Road and Pattanagere, 96 per cent has been completed for the Reach 2B between Pattanagere and Challaghatta Depot. Only 37 per cent of the civil works has been completed for the elevated portion of Reach 6 between Kalenagrahara and Swagath Cross Road.

Permission has been acquired for cutting trees for the 15.5-km line between Whitefield and Baiyappanahalli, the report said.

"The 45 acres of land required for Kadugodi depot in this stretch has been acquired," the newsletter said.

Laws in place, but none fined for dumping construction debris

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

DESPITE stringent laws in place against dumping of construction and demolition (C & D) waste, not a single builder in the city has been fined so far. Roads across the city are strewn with debris — the Outer Ring Road and low-lying areas emerging as main disposal spots.

On the other hand, the only firm in Bengaluru which recycles construction waste is not even getting enough debris to run its plant at half the capacity

Under the BBMP's solid waste management by-laws, March 2020, any failure to dispose such waste in a segregated manner or dumping it anywhere will invite a penalty of Rs 10,000 per tonne for a first-time offence and Rs 25,000 per tonne for the second and subsequent offences.

D Randeep, former special Commissioner, BBMP, Solid Waste Management, conceded that no one has been fined yet. "We have been levying fines for SWM violations. However, no one has yet been fined for C&D violations."

The BBMP has given powers to the assistant engineers in wards and the assistant executive engineer at the divisional level to levy fines for construction projects which do not have documentary proof of tie-up for waste disposal, and also book trucks carrying waste without proof of it heading to the C&D plants, Randeep added.

It has been learnt that C&D waste of anywhere between 4,000 and 5,000 tonnes are generated on an average day with government agencies like BBMP, BMRCL, BDA and Smart City projects accounting for at least 50 per cent of them.

Rajesh Kohar, partner at Rock Crystals, which run the city's only C&D waste plant at Chikkajajur said, "We can recycle up to 1,000 tonnes of construction waste per day. But we get only a maximum of 400 tonnes per day now. Even this is in the aftermath of an NGT meeting in February this year. Prior to that, we got between 60 and 70 tonnes a day."

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

21st June: The planets are creating a 'splash' today. The idea is that if you throw a pebble into a pond, then the ripples spread out in all directions, carrying fresh possibilities with them. So, we might see this as a perfect time to experiment with new options and ways of living.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You certainly can't complain about a lack of energy. Mars, your personal ruling planet, is cruising through your chart, recharging your batteries. If you do collapse, it's because you've overdone it. The best long-term advice at the moment is to hang on to everything you've gained so far.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
Venus' positive impact on your chart offers a superb guarantee of immediate success, especially in all matters of social and emotional significance. You need to try and express your feelings free from other pressures particularly what you imagine other people really want!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
All this week's new ventures, invitations and enterprises are due to culminate towards the weekend. The lesson is simple: you should plan ahead and not panic if everything doesn't work out today or tomorrow. Be patient, and see to it that nothing you do now can be undone later.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
This week's planetary pattern will never be repeated, at least not for a long while. That's not unusual, but it should make you value even the small benefits which come your way. The whole point is that everything that is most romantic and idea-listic about your character is being emphasised in the most positive manner possible.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
This is the perfect time to throw the book at someone who has either tried to mislead you in some way, or who has taken your good nature for granted. There is no point at all in fudging the issues. Neither does there seem to be any need to make a decision which goes against your instincts.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
You may have little idea of the extent to which worldly or professional ambitions are scheduled to dominate your affairs towards the end of the week. So don't reject suggestions or proposals which may seem irrelevant at first sight, but could have a deeper meaning.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
Family affairs are moving up the agenda. Someone really does appear to be blowing hot and cold, and emotionally you may feel rather confused. However, if you understand that this is a week of uncertainty for many people, you may sit back and enjoy mildly chaotic circumstances.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
Everyone experiences times when partners seem to be unexpectedly loving and generous. Sometimes you imagine that other people must want something from you, but I can see no reason why you should be suspicious this week. At least, no more so than usual!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
Your ruler, Jupiter, which has been very constructively placed for some time, is now in a superb position. It is, though, advising care and caution. Given that you can resist the temptation to make rash decisions, you are due for an amazing lift in your personal situation.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
Obviously this is a time of global drama, yet with so many emotional pressures it may be difficult for you to steer a careful path and find the most suitable way to express your hopes and ideals. It will pay you to develop any educational contacts, by the way.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
Romantically, everything seems to revolve around the home. This suggests that happy family meetings are in store this week. At least you are promised that family relationships can only get better. But could I add this one proviso? If you do want to go off by yourself, you will have to explain why!

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Foreign countries and exotic places beckon. You have far more to gain from overseas excursions this year than the average traveller. I say that, partly because you could acquire a much better understanding of your long-term purpose. Life-changing experiences are to be expected and welcomed.

THE PHANTOM

I DID IT BECAUSE THINGS HAPPEN, KIT. TO ALL OF US! YOU AND DAD INCLUDED...
DAD'S WRONG TO RISK TAKING YOUR SECRET TO THE GRAVE...
HE SAYS IT'S NOT AN ISSUE, YOU'LL COME HOME ON YOUR OWN SOMEDAY, ONCE YOU'VE LEARNED ALL YOU CAN WHERE HE SENT YOU...
BUT WHAT IF THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE? WHAT IF YOU NEED YOUR FAMILY TO COME TO YOU?
Falk

HI AND LOIS

REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS CAN'T AGREE ON ANYTHING.
IT'S LIKE CAT LOVERS VS. DOG PEOPLE.
GRIDLOCK IN CONGRESS
I KNOW WHICH SIDE I'M ON.

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE TEXTING WHILE CUTTING MY HAIR
NOT EXACTLY... I'M TAKING ARTISTIC PICTURES!
I CAN'T DECIDE IF YOUR COWLICKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE SMITHSONIAN OR THE LOUVRE!
OH, BOY, EXTRA-HOT COWLICKS!
YEP, MUSEUM-QUALITY!

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

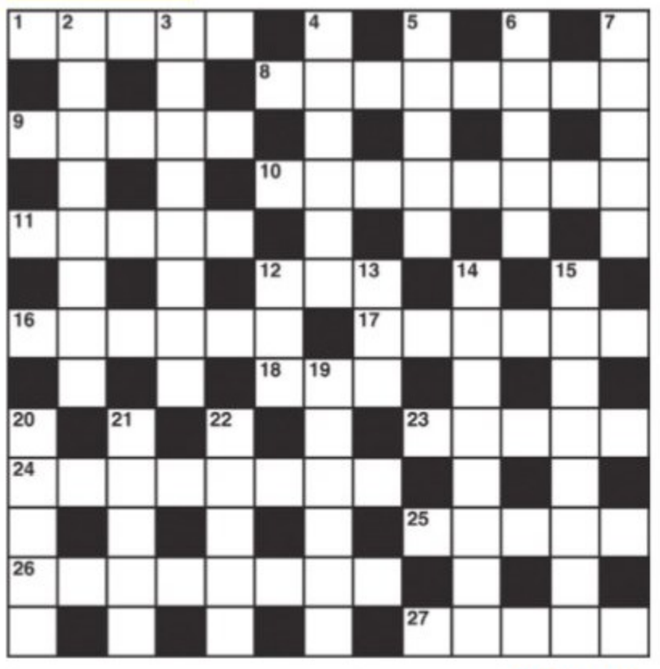
Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

			2	1				
8	9				5	4	1	
6								
2	5				3		4	
			5		6			
	4		7				5	6
								9
	7	8	1				3	5
				7	9			

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	7	8	6	1	4	3	5	2
6	5	4	8	2	3	9	1	7
2	1	3	9	7	5	4	6	8
8	9	5	4	3	6	7	2	1
3	4	7	2	5	1	6	8	9
1	2	6	7	8	9	5	3	4
7	6	2	3	4	8	1	9	5
5	8	9	1	6	7	2	4	3
4	3	1	5	9	2	8	7	6

CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 True capital of Moroccan kingdom (5)
8 To each in turn it appears unfinished (8)
9 Attack! Throw a stone (5)
10 Light upon a record surplus (8)
11 A new taste put into words (5)
12 Fondle a cat for example (3)
16 Measure that is of help to a sportsman (6)
17 Not well employed? (6)
18 Born of woman (3)
23 Designed by Manet perhaps? (5)
24 Shot by firing squad and carried out (8)
25 ABC is translated into computer language (5)
26 Grows about ten different wines (8)
27 Man of affairs? (5)

DOWN

2 Nobel prize winner of the naughty nineties? (8)
3 Speak falsely yet be quiet (3,5)
4 Egg - how nice it may be scrambled (6)
5 Outrage the feelings with a mass of untidy hair (5)
6 Forgo a farewell gesture we hear (5)
7 Listened to the sound of the cattle (5)
12 A bird cage (3)
13 Join in the festivities (3)
14 Lost despite great effort (5,3)
15 Countries may share it between them (8)
19 Level with the Spanish team (6)
20 Observes about ten genders (5)
21 Type badly putting an extra 't' in 'trivial' (5)
22 Flinch though still game (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Adventures, 6 Epic, 10 Chair, 11 Eroticism, 12 Lifeless, 13 Pause, 15 Priests, 17 Siskins, 19 Reynard, 21 Gallant, 22 Paths, 24 Glissade, 27 Reasoning, 28 Urban, 29 Sane, 30 Changeless.

Down: 1 Arch, 2 Viability, 3 Nurse, 4 Useless, 5 Egoists, 7 Pollu, 8 Compensate, 9 Disposal, 14 Spare parts, 16 Snapshot, 18 Inaudible, 20 Dogfish, 21 Going on, 23 Train, 25 Sauce, 26 Onus.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

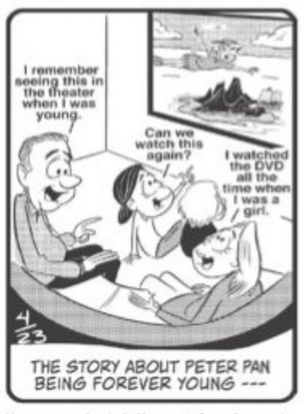
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PWRIE

DLEAG

SSEVUR

DBONYO


I remember seeing this in the theater when I was young.
Can we watch this again?
I watched the DVD all the time when I was a girl.
THE STORY ABOUT PETER PAN BEING FOREVER YOUNG ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** TIGHT SLANT ICONIC NEURON
ANSWER: They were able to choose which sofa to buy — IN ONE SITTING

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While additional lockdown relaxations will come into effect in many districts of Karnataka, the new norms will now also be extended to Dharwad. The State Government has issued orders upgrading the district to 'Category 1' status on relaxations.

UPPER BHADRA

No need for probe: Bommai on tender

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

INSISTING that due procedures have been followed in implementing the Rs 20,000-crore Upper Bhadra Project, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there was no need to investigate allegations on the tender process.

The Congress had demanded a probe into tenders called for the project, after BJP MLC H Vishwanath had alleged irregularities and corruption in the process.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Bommai rejected the demand by the Congress. "The procedures (for tender) followed by the previous government with regard to irrigation projects, as per provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTTP) Act, and decisions taken by the boards, have been followed here too. Everything is open," Bommai said.

The minister added that the water resources department secretary had clarified that due process had been followed. "When the truth is known, what is the need for investigation?" he asked.

Leader of the Opposition in the assembly Siddaramaiah had demanded a probe by the ACB, citing Vishwanath's allegations, while KPCC president D K Shivakumar has demanded a joint house committee probe.

Vishwanath had recently alleged that a tender worth Rs 20,000 crore was floated for the Upper Bhadra Project without the consent of the finance department.

KSRTC, BMTC buses to run from today

BMTC to operate 2K services on major routes in B'luru; Mysuru off the list till cases drop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will resume services from Monday, with 50 per cent capacity.

BMTC will operate 2,000 services on major traffic routes in Bengaluru city between 6am and 7pm. It will operate Vayu Vajra services (17 buses, 117 trips) from Kempegowda International Airport to Kempegowda Bus Station and Electronics City, and will also increase services based on passenger volume.

The validity of the April 2021 ordinary monthly pass has been extended up to July 8, 2021. Digital ticketing (QR code based) system will be provided in all buses.

KSRTC will commence local and inter-district long route bus operations with effect from Monday, based on traffic density and need, except in Mysuru district. Initially, it is planned to operate about 3,000 buses.

A decision on opening interstate operations will be taken in the coming days, keeping in view the prevailing Covid-19 guidelines in those states.

DyCM Laxman Savadi said that KSRTC will resume operations in stages. Passengers have been requested to compulsorily follow Covid-19 guidelines while travelling in the Corporation buses. With this, prohibition on inter-district travel will be effectively removed.

The first stage begins on Monday with buses plying along different routes. Demand will be continuously assessed, and routes will be decided, said KSRTC MD Shivayogi Kalsad.

Kalsad said the situation in Mysuru needs to improve, only after which buses will ply there, though it means that movement towards Kodagu will be affected. There is also hesitancy on the part of Dakshina Kannada to open up all routes.

MASKS A MUST
A BMTC release said the bus crew is mandated to wear masks, use sanitiser and maintain hygiene
Passengers will be allowed to board a bus only if seats are available, and buses will stop only at designated stops
It is mandatory to use masks covering both mouth and nose. Those suffering from fever are advised not to travel
K.S.R.T.C

KSRTC staffers clean and ready a bus, a day ahead of resumption of services in the state, in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Phone-tapping row: Police collect Bellad's call details

ENS @Bengaluru

BENGALURU police, probing allegations of phone tapping by BJP MLA **Aravind Bellad**, on Saturday recorded his statement.

A special team was formed to probe the case, and a senior police officer recorded the statement in detail at the MLA's residence in Bengaluru. He also analysed his mobile phone and the number from which he received a call, from a person claiming to be Yuvaraj Swamy. Swamy was arrested by CCB for cheating over a dozen of people, including a retired high court judge, promising him a political posting. Swamy is currently lodged in Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara. Police collected CDR details and are analysing the call record history of the number which was used to make a call to Bellad, besides its tower location, a police officer said.

Bellad had complained to Speaker Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri and the state police chief, that he suspected his phone was being tapped, and demanded a detailed probe. He had alleged that attempts were being made to fix him, and a person who is in judicial custody had called him.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that investigations are under way into allegations of phone tapping by Arvind Bellad. "Investigation is on. Police are gathering information," Bommai said.

NOW, JDS PLANS STATEWIDE PROTEST OVER INFLATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

LAST week, it was the Congress, led by KPCC president DK Shivakumar, that held statewide protests for days over rising fuel and food prices, and now the JDS is set to begin its own agitation.

JDS state unit president HK Kumaraswamy has asked cadres in all village, taluk and district levels to hold gatherings starting Monday, over inflation. "All taluk and district members should submit a memorandum to the government via their respective tahsildars and district commissioners on the plight of the common man, over rising food and fuel prices," a letter from Kumaraswamy to party cadres read.

The call for protest comes on a day former CM **HD Kumaraswamy** accused BJP of being "anti Kannada". He said the Centre has been sidelining Kannada, while speaking of Kannada not being offered as a language by the Lok Sabha secretariat's Parliamentary Research Institute and Training Institute for Democracy. He alleged that the institute was prioritising Gujarati, Bengali, Marathi, Odia, Telugu and Tamil, but was neglecting Kannada.

Give nod for Mekedatu: HDK to Centre

The Centre's permission for the Mekedatu project on the river Cauvery is overdue, former CM H D Kumaraswamy said. "Why is the Union Government not giving permission? If permission has been delayed, it is because the Centre has listened to the Tamil Nadu government, and this is betrayal of the people of Karnataka," he said. Kumaraswamy said that former Chief Minister Edapaddi K Palaniswami had been exerting pressure on the Centre to stop permission for Mekedatu.

Your Guide to SPICY LIVING
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Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
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GANDHIGRAM – 624 302
DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU
ADMISSIONS : 2021-22
Online application registrations are invited for admission to various Under Graduate and Post Graduate programmes including B.Sc B.Ed (4 years) and MBA / B.Voc / PG Diploma / Diploma programmes offered by the Gandhigram Rural Institute for the Academic year 2021-2022. For further details, visit the institute website: www.ruraluniv.ac.in
Date: 21.06.2021
Dr. V.P.R. SIVAKUMAR
REGISTRAR

ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಎಣ್ಣೆಬೀಜ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ಪೋಸ್ಟ್ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 328, ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಯಲ್ ಏರಿಯಾ, ಹೈದ್ರಾಬಾದ್ ರೋಡ್, ರಾಯಚೂರ-584102
ಇಮೇಲ್: rrukofrcr@gmail.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.kofraichur.com
ಕ್ರಸಂ: ಆರ್.ಆರ್.ಯು/ಆಡಳಿತ/ನೇಮಕಾತಿ/202/2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21-06-2021
ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ಎಣ್ಣೆಬೀಜ ಬೆಳೆಗಾರರ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘಗಳ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿ., ರಾಯಚೂರು ಇದರಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಂದ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಹುದ್ದೆಯ ಹೆಸರು	ವೇತನ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ (ರೂ)	ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ
1	ಸಹಾಯಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಬೀಜ)	40900–78200	01 ಹುದ್ದೆ
2	ಸಹಾಯಕ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು (ಏತ್ರ)	40900–78200	01 ಹುದ್ದೆ
3	ಮಾರಾಟ ಸಹಾಯಕರು	21400–42000	12 ಹುದ್ದೆ
4	ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟೆಂಟ್	21400–42000	01 ಹುದ್ದೆ
5	ಬೆರಳಚ್ಚುಗಾರರು	21400–42000	01 ಹುದ್ದೆ
6	ಜಾಲಕರು	21400–42000	01 ಹುದ್ದೆ

ನಿಗದಿತ ಅರ್ಜಿ ನಮೂನೆ, ವಯೋಮಿತಿ, ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಹತೆ, ಅರ್ಜ ಶುಲ್ಕ, ಆಯ್ಕೆ ವಿಧಾನ, ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ಸೂಚನೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳು ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ www.kofraichur.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಜ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–07–2021 ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗದಿತ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ತಲುಪುವಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು. ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.
ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಪ್ರಾ.ಎ.ಬಿ.ಬೆ.ಸ.ಸಂ.ಒ.ನಿ., ರಾಯಚೂರ ಪರವಾಗಿ

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

DEPARTMENT OF AYUSH

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA - 2021

June 21, 2021

Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

International day of yoga
Yoga for Harmony & Peace
Be with Yoga, Be at Home.
Yoga for Wellness

Virtual Inauguration by
Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister
at 7:00 am

Yoga is physical, mental and spiritual practice for wellbeing.

Yoga is gift of India to the world for health, peace and harmony.

Let us adopt Yoga in our day-to-day practice to fight COVID-19 like pandemic.

Honorable Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Medical Education Dr. K. Sudhakar practicing Yoga.

Ministry of AYUSH Web Links
Website: https://main.ayush.gov.in/
Yoga Portal: https://yoga.ayush.gov.in/yoga/
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqRR2gs-I3zrNcE4so4TpgQ
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/moayush/

"To protect and respect our varied culture and traditions"
-is the fundamental duty of every Citizen of our Country. Enshrined in the Constitution

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

06 BENGALURU MONDAY 21.06.2021

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

4,517 CASES REPORTED TODAY

5,815 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	28,06,453
YESTERDAY	28,01,936

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
120	161

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
8,456	11,832

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
1,26,813	1,30,872

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.57%
YESTERDAY	8.60%

The day positivity rate – 2.58% – is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.20%
YESTERDAY	1.20%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	94.27%
YESTERDAY	94.12%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 20, 2021, a total of 28,06,453 cases have been reported in 1 year and 100 days...

1,84,52,895 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	32,23,213
Health care workers 1st dose	7,43,853
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,89,224
Frontline workers 1st dose	7,39,932
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,35,772
Age 18-45 1st dose	36,86,562
Age 18-45 2nd dose	29,637
Above 45 1st dose	1,00,59,335
Above 45 2nd dose	24,68,580

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

933 BENGALURU URBAN

111 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: 10	Chamarajanagar: 61	Dakshina Kannada: 525	Hassan: 346	Kolar: 77	Raichur: 19	Udupi: 167
Ballari: 67	Chikkaballapur: 123	Davanagere: 136	Haveri: 24	Koppal: 61	Ramanagara: 12	Uttara Kannada: 146
Belagavi: 172	Chikkamagaluru: 183	Dharwad: 77	Kalaburagi: 9	Mandya: 131	Shivamogga: 141	Vijayapura: 7
Bidar: 6	Chitradurga: 74	Gadag: 28	Kodagu: 137	Mysuru: 545	Tumakuru: 144	Yadgir: 16

JAB AND THE CITY

(NO. OF PEOPLE VACCINATED)

A health worker writes the number of vaccine doses available at a hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

B'luru sees dip in vax coverage, inconsistent supply blamed

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AT a time when experts have emphasised on the need to increase vaccination coverage ahead of the possible third wave of Covid-19, Bengaluru has fallen short of achieving its target of vaccinating one lakh people daily for the last few days.

According to the data from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Covid-19 war room, the number has been fluctuating between 25,000 and 77,000 per day as against the target of 1 lakh.

On June 8, 82,093 people were vaccinated, followed by 78,714 on June 9 and 1,02,409 on June 11. While, 27,150 people were vaccinated on June 13, the number increased to 61,389 on June 14. It, however, fell to 57,431 on June 15 and 55,929 on June 16. It increased to 62,566 on June 17 and touched 77,718 on June 18.

Admitting a dip in vaccination, BBMP Special Commissioner for Health, Randeep D, said, "We are facing hurdles in supply. We are trying to have a system in place. We have been told that the supply issue will be addressed soon. There is also a problem where people, taking their second dose, use another phone number while registering ... as a result they don't show up in the system."

BBMP has received 1,80,000 doses in the last 10 days with an average daily vaccination of 28,000 as the supply is inconsistent. "Usually, we receive 35,000 doses of Covishield every three days once. We last received Covaxin on June 5," a BBMP official said.

Speaking to *The New Indian Express*, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said the government aims to vaccinate 1 lakh people each day. "On Saturday, we received 4.66 lakh doses of Covishield and 25,000 doses of Covaxin from the Government of India. On Friday, we got 4.83 lakh doses of Covishield. So, there is no shortage of vaccine. We are aiming to inoculate 12 lakh adults in the city within this month taking the overall vaccination coverage in the city from the present 33 lakh to 45 lakh. For the next 12 days, we will inoculate at least 1 lakh people each day. It is estimated that the adult population in the city is 91 lakh. Our aim is to vaccinate them before the third wave—that is expected in October," he said.

Meanwhile, heads of mid-sized hospitals rue that they are facing problems in getting the vaccines. "It is easy to vaccinate more people if mid-sized hospitals too are supplied with vaccines. Access to vaccines should not be limited to just government and corporate hospitals....," said Dr Jagadish Hiremath, MD, Ace Suhas Hospital.

BBMP AIMS TO JAB 65,000 PEOPLE TODAY

Bengaluru: BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta on Sunday said that a mass-vaccination camp is being organised in the city on Monday following a nationwide vaccination campaign call given by the Union Government. He said the BBMP aims to vaccinate 65,000 people in the city and a micro-management plan has also been prepared. Priority will be given to those above the age of 45 and those seeking second dose, health and frontline workers, and eligible beneficiaries recognised by the government in the age group of 18-44. Covaxin is available and the first dose will be given to those above the age of 45, he added. He also said as per the directives of the Union Health Ministry, gap between two doses of Covisheild has been revised from 4 weeks to 12-16 weeks for people going abroad in BBMP limits. Students going aborad to study, professionals going to work and sportspersons heading to the Tokyo Olympics will be administered the second dose after 28 days of receiving the first dose. A vaccination centre will function at Bengaluru University City College from June 22. For details, call 9343793046/959187 9025/9880037365. Meanwhile, CM BS Yediyurappa will inaugurate the mass-vaccination drive at Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University and Research Centre in Bengaluru at 11 am on Monday. The state aims to inoculate 7 lakh people on Monday.

Lab staff to be trained for genome surveillance ahead of third wave

IISc, IT-BT Department come together to carry out online, on-ground training

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

THE Genomic Surveillance Committee, formed by the State Government recently, has come up with an action plan to scale up genomic sequencing by training laboratory staff through online and on-ground training. The plan follows a recent announcement by Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar that seven genome sequencing labs would be set up at five government medical colleges, Wenlock Hospital in Mangaluru and Vijaypura district hospital.

"The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms(C-Camp), IBAB and IT-BT Department, with the support of Strand-HCG Hospital, IISc and NCBS, will train the laboratory staff online on and on the ground as to how to carry out genomic surveillance," said Dr Vishal Rao, a member of the State's Genomic Surveillance Committee and Regional Director -- Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, HCG Cancer Centre.

Genomic sequencing of positive samples started in the State this year after the UK variant was found and a total of 127 tested positive. Later, the South African variant surfaced with six infections. Now, the Delta and Kappa Indian variants have infected 318 and 112 people in the State.

Committee officials said the technology and staff are needed to be ramped up to carry out better genomic surveillance. "We have so far conducted genome sequencing of 350-400 samples in the past few months in the State. Ideally, we should have done at least double that. We need to scale up technology and conduct at least 1,000 sample tests a week. This is the only way we can keep a clinical track of the variants," Dr Rao added.

One of the committee members pointed out that it will take at least three to four months for medical colleges to start genomic surveillance.

Merging of existing capabilities of IISc and Strand Life Sciences Pvt Ltd will play a key role, he added.

The committee is also planning to follow the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), which has set up a Covid tracker dashboard, to make genome sequencing and analyses freely available to all primary healthcare centres.

Dr Rao said that it is imperative to rely on machine learning models and AI algorithms to execute genomic surveillance efficiently.

Dr Vijay Chandru, Lancet Commissioner and a member of Genomic Surveillance Committee, said, "It is time for us to bring the best-in-class capabilities in the country to drive better genomic surveillance. The public effort driven by INSACOG has laid a foundation, but we now need to scale it up and have real-time dashboards to enable early warning signals to manage the next wave."

The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-Camp), IBAB and IT-BT Department, with the support of Strand-HCG Hospital, IISc and NCBS, will train the laboratory staff online on and on the ground as to how to carry out genomic surveillance

Dr Vishal Rao, a member of the State's Genomic Surveillance Committee and Regional Director -- Head and Neck Surgical Oncology, HCG Cancer Centre

A health worker collects swab samples of a passenger at Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

'Need to detect warning signs before next wave'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

BENGALURU is a hub of bioinformatics and has many private labs which have the expertise to put medical and biological information together and do clinical diagnosis. Experts believe that SARS-CoV-2 is mutating at a faster pace and identifying variants early is of utmost importance as one variant tends to be replaced by another that is more fierce and resilient.

Prof Chandru said that it is time for us to bring in the best-in-class capabilities from across India to come together to drive better genomic surveillance. "The public effort driven by Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomic Consortia (INSACOG) has laid the foundation, but we now need to scale it up to have real-time dashboards to enable early warning signals to manage the next wave. This requires a professional bioinformatics and clinical analytics approach to surveillance that would be best served by a public-private partnership."

Dr Vishal Rao, Dean, Centre for Academic Research at HCG Cancer Centre, Member of Karnataka Covid Task Force and GS committee, who is also on the advisory board with the Central government, said that soon the Centre will look into roping in some of the major private players. "We are in touch with Centre for Disease Control's SARS-CoV-2 Sequencing for Public Health Emergency Response, Epidemiology and Surveillance which is a collaboration of scientists from clinical and health labs, academic institutions and private sector to coordinate sequencing. Aspen Lab at the University of California has done a brilliant dashboard to coordinate on the genome data. We have proposed something similar here," he said.

Dr Rao said what really matters is the "integration" and "analysis" of data that is being generated. "Finding the variants at the time of diagnosis, rea-time sequencing and flagging the mutant even before an outbreak is the key. A dashboard to put data together and include more labs is need of the hour."

State reports under 5K cases in nearly 70 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER close to two-and-a-half-months, Karnataka reported less than 5,000 new Covid-19 cases (4,517) on Sunday, taking the total caseload since the beginning of the pandemic last year to 28.06 lakh. The last that the state saw less than 5,000 cases was on April 2 (4,553).

On Sunday, 120 people succumbed to the virus taking the total death toll to 33,883 with a mortality rate of 1.20%.

With 8,456 discharges on Saturday, Karnataka, which had the highest active caseload in the country, is now pushed to the second spot after Maharashtra. The number of active cases in Karnataka now stands at 1,26,813, while that of Maharashtra is 1,32,241. Kerala comes third with an active caseload of 1,05,940.

Meanwhile, Karnataka's test positivity rate too has been on a steady decline. From, 8.75% on June 12, it has now fallen to 8.57%.

Bengaluru city, on Saturday, saw 933 cases with 12 deaths and 1,902 discharges.

Shettar gives push, Dharwad opens up

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

STARTING Monday, additional lockdown relaxations will come into effect in many districts of Karnataka. The new norms that applied to 16 districts will now be extended to Dharwad as well, with the State government issuing fresh orders upgrading Dharwad to 'Category 1' status on relaxations.

The push to ease restrictions in Dharwad came at the behest of Industries Minister **Jagadish Shettar**. "The unlock process is based on the positivity rate of a district in the past 10 days. While calculating the same for Dharwad, the district administration has noticed that the positivity rate has been at 4.5 per cent, and hence our district is eligible for easing of restrictions. I have brought this to the attention of Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar and requested that Dharwad also be considered for lockdown relaxation," the former chief minister said.

Within hours, fresh orders were issued to include Dharwad on the list of districts with the most relaxations.

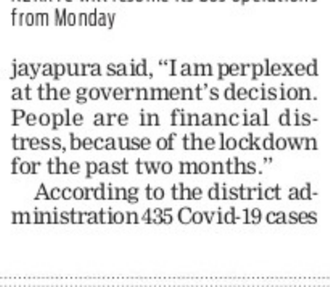
"After considering the declining trend in the case positivity rate of Dharwad district, and also taking into account that the district has consistently recorded less than 5 per cent case positivity rate since 14-06-2021, Dharwad district is hereby included under Category I districts. Consequently, all additional activities permitted for Category I districts from 6 am 21-06-2021 until 5 am 05-07-2021 will be applicable for Dharwad district also," read an order by N Manjunatha Prasad, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department.

Lockdown to continue in Vijayapura

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Bengaluru

PEOPLE of Vijayapura might have to stay indoors for another two weeks as the government has decided to continue with the lockdown in the district though the test positivity rate (TPR) is less than 5%. On Saturday, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa gave relief to 16 districts that have TPR less than 5%. The government continued with the restrictions as per the unlock guidelines issued on June 11 in 13 districts that have a TPR above 5%.

Expressing anger at the State Government, Rahul Patil, a businessman, of Vijayapura said, "I am perplexed at the government's decision. People are in financial distress, because of the lockdown for the past two months."



NEKRTC will resume its bus operations from Monday

According to the district administration 435 Covid-19 cases have been reported in the past one week. With this, the overall TPR stands at 3.59% and the daily TPR (on Saturday) was 1.45%. "We are not sure as to how many days' TPR is considered for unlock. If we analyse last one week's data (June 12 to 18), average positivity rate is below 5%. But on June 12, TPR was 6.72% and on the next day, it was 5.82%. This might be the reason behind the government's move," an official said.

"Our TPR is similar to that of Dharwad. If Dharwad has been given relaxation, we are also eligible. I have brought this to the government's notice," Deputy Commissioner P Sunil Kumar told *TNIE*.

FREE OF PANDEMIC

No Covid-19 cases in 39 of 49 prisons in Karnataka

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

THE number of Covid-19 cases in prisons across the state has come down over the last few weeks. Of the 49 prisons in Karnataka, 39 of them have zero Covid-19 cases.

Speaking to *TNIE*, Director General of Police and DG, Prisons & Correctional Services, Alok Mohan said, "We have only 10 prisons in which there are some Covid-19 cases." In Bengaluru Central Prison at Parapanna Agrahara, there are five Covid-positive prisoners. "They are asymptomatic and in quarantine," he added. The sprawling prison campus has a new building, which has been turned into a quarantine centre for asymptomatic Covid-positive patients.

The Prisons Department has further ramped up its vaccination drive among prisoners. "We have vaccinated 99% of the prisoners in the age group of 18 and 44. They have received their first dose of vaccination. All prisoners aged 45 and above have received their first dose of vaccination. They will get their second dose as per the revised vaccination protocols. Some of them may also have received their second dose," added the prison chief.

The mass vaccination drive has covered convicts and undertrial prisoners in the eligible age brackets. There are over 15,000 prisoners lodged in various prisons in Karnataka. Of them 2,167 are aged 45 and above. The vaccination drive at prisons is being held with the help of Department of Health and Family Welfare and the district administration.

Meanwhile, following a directive from the Supreme Court on decongesting prisons in the country, 1,120 prisoners have been released since last month in Karnataka, said the prison chief. "Of the 1,120 prisoners, 625 have been released on bail, 370 on parole and 125 have been released as per the Supreme Court guidelines," said the DG, Prisons.

The latter are life convicts and have completed 14 years in prison.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday announced a new scheme 'Ashirbad' for education, health and maintenance of Covid orphans. Children who lost both their parents or an earning parent on April 1, 2020 or thereafter to Covid, will be eligible for the scheme

42 yrs on, GRP gasps with low staff strength across K'taka

The GRP today runs with the same staff strength as it did in 1979

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

CRIME detection and passenger safety across trains and railway stations in Karnataka have taken a massive hit, owing to the acute shortage of Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel. While repeated requests for augmenting the strength over the years has not borne any fruit, the number of trains and passengers across South Western Railway have shot up manifold.

The GRP today runs with the same staff strength as it did in 1979. "We have sent a proposal to recruit 919 staff for the force, with 725 only for the South Western Railway Zone," a senior GRP official said. However, this is pending for six years now. For SWR, the staff sought include one Superintendent, one Deputy Superintendent, 24 Sub-Inspectors, 63 Assistant Sub-Inspectors, 131 Head Constables, 466 Constables and 39 Armed Constables.

The force was created in 1861 to cater to the Railways. "The problem lies in a peculiar arrangement, wherein the costs to operate the force need to be shared by both the Railways and the specific state government," a senior official said, adding that this is the reason why new recruitment has not been approved by the Railway Board.

Karnataka has constantly maintained that it was ready to bear half the cost of the additional recruitment, but the Railway Board is unwilling to shoulder its burden, the official said. "The state has even gone to the extent of requesting the Board to at least sanction half the strength, so that it could manage the full salaries for this 50 per cent, but even that has not come through," he added.

SP Bengaluru DR Siri Gowri said the present staff strength in Karnataka is 771, including one SP, three DySPs, and 427 constables. Additional Director General of Police, Railways, Bhaskar Rao told *TNIE*, "The huge increase in passenger traffic is also seeing a rise in smuggling of contraband, gold, liquor and counterfeit currency through trains. We need sufficient strength to completely end all such crimes."

CASES IN TAMIL NADU SURGED DUE TO DELTA VARIANT

Preliminary genome sequencing analysis shows it was more common among those above 12 years old

'Vax for kids crucial'

Chennai: WITH children and teenagers being reportedly more vulnerable to the Delta variant of Covid, public health experts say vaccinating children must be prioritised and related trials should be fast-tracked. Out of the 554 samples tested for genomic sequencing by the State Health Department to identify the Delta strain, 386 were found to have been infected by the variant. Among the 386, 86 persons (22 per cent) were below 18 years of age. As the schools may reopen in the coming months, inoculating children at the earliest become all the more crucial, say experts.

Physical distancing norms were thrown to the wind at Kasimedu fishing harbour, Chennai, where a huge crowd turned up to purchase fresh catch | R SATISH BABU

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE Delta variant of the coronavirus caused widespread infection during the second wave of the Covid-19 outbreak in Tamil Nadu. This was revealed in the preliminary report of the whole genome sequencing analysis released by the State Health department on Sunday. The World Health Organization has categorised the highly-transmissible Delta variant as a 'variant of concern'.

According to the Health department's report, 1,159 samples were collected from all district surveillance units and sentinel sites and sent to the State Public Health Laboratory in Chennai for preliminary screening, and then to InSTEM, Bengaluru for genome sequencing analysis. So far, results of 554 samples (48 per cent) - collected between December, 2020 and May, 2021 - have been received.

Of these 554, as many as 386 (70 per cent) were found to be of the Delta variant (B.1.617.2). The Alpha variant (B.1.1.7) accounted for 8.5 per cent (47 samples) of the samples. The Delta variant was predominantly found in community clusters (30 per cent) and family clusters (23 per cent).

It was also more common among people above the age of 12 years (81 per cent) compared to children (19 per cent). Of the 554 samples, 96 were of children up to the age of 12, and among them, 73 (76 per cent) had the Delta variant. As many as 66 of the 554 samples were vaccine breakthrough cases, and of them, 55 (83 per cent) had the Delta variant, the report said.

The samples were sent from community clusters, family clusters, reinfection cases, vaccine breakthrough cases, children up to the age of 12, young adults with severe lung involvement and diseases, etc.

Former TN minister held on rape charges

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

A special team arrested former Tamil Nadu IT minister M Manikandan from Bengaluru during the wee hours of Sunday on charges of raping a woman, police sources confirmed. Tamil Nadu police formed the team after Manikandan allegedly absconded following the dismissal of an anticipatory bail plea in the Madras HC.

Police sources said the arrest was made with in coordination with the cyber cell police. On May 28, the woman, an actor, filed a written complaint in the City Police Commissionerate against Manikandan. Following the complaint, he was booked by Adyar All Women's Police based and various sections of the IPC, including rape, causing miscarriage and cheating slapped.

The woman alleged that she met Manikandan in 2017 when he was minister and got close to him after the latter promised to do business together in Malaysia. She had reportedly tagged along with him to several places during his official tours. She alleged that she was tortured and also forced by him to abort after becoming pregnant by him.

Former TN minister M Manikandan being brought out after interrogation at Adyar J2 police station in Chennai | ASHWIN PRASATH

Manikandan stayed at friend's house in B'luru

BENGALURU: Former AIADMK Minister M Manikandan was reportedly staying at a friend's house in Anekal on the outskirts of the city when he was arrested. Sources in the Bengaluru Rural district police said that there was no information about Manikandan in their jurisdiction. "The Tamil Nadu police arrested him in the morning and only after that they informed the matter to the local police. It was found that Manikandan was staying in the house in Thammanayakanahalli which belonged to his friend Srinivas," an official said. It is said that Manikandan was staying there for the last three to four days. **ENS**

Aisha told not to leave island for four days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kochi

FILMMAKER **Aisha Sultana**, who has been booked under sedition charges, appeared before the Kavaratti police on Sunday. After interrogation, the police allowed her to go but instructed that she should not leave the island for four days.

Aisha -- who was booked for allegedly saying that the Centre had used 'bio-weapon' against the residents of Lakshadweep -- appeared before the police by 4.30pm along with her lawyer. Police said she was let off after about three hours of interrogation in the presence of ASP Sarath Kumar Sinha at the office of Senior Superintendent of Police, Lakshadweep, Kavaratti. "She has been directed not to leave the island for the next four days. If required, she will be summoned again, " said a source with the Lakshadweep police.

FIR filed for kidnapping, using black magic

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

AN FIR has been registered under Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Bill. Kidnapping and criminal intimidation charges too have been included in the case.

The incident took place on June 14 when the girl was staying at her grandmother's house, while her parents were at Magadi. Her parents said that their neighbour Savithramma and her daughter Soumya took the girl on the pretext of giving her prasad and forced her to wear a garland to perform the rituals. When the grandmother noticed that the girl was not near the house, she went in search of her. She found the girl with the accused in the field and started screaming. After she was rescued, the girl indicated that the accused were trying to sacrifice her.

The accused said they were planning to build a Chamundi and Muneshwara temple in their field and as suggested by a priest, they had asked the minor girl to perform the puja. The police have recorded the statement and are conducting further investigation. The girl's family alleged that the accused are threatening the couple to withdraw the case.

A submerged bridge near Nilawade in Khanapur taluk on Sunday. Several villages on fringes of forest were disconnected from the rest of Belagavi district after Malaprabha and Bandura rivers started flowing in spate, following heavy rain over the past four days. However, on Sunday morning, the water started to recede, providing relief to people. Hattargunji, Mudewadi, Dukkarwadi and adjacent villages were the most affected | EXPRESS

AP vaccinates over 13L people in one day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayawada

ANDHRA Pradesh set a new record by administering Covid-19 vaccine to 13.53 lakh beneficiaries on Sunday, surpassing its own record of giving 6.28 lakh jabs in a single day on April 14.

By 9 pm on Sunday, the State had administered Covid vaccine to 13,53,140 beneficiaries, exceeding its set target of giving 10 lakh jabs. The figures included 4,373 vaccine doses administered in the private sector. With the administration of 13.53 lakh doses as part of the mega vaccination drive, the total Covid jabs given in the State increased to 1,36,69,749.

In fact, the target of covering one million beneficiaries in a single day was achieved by 3.30 pm itself. The highest number of 1.92 lakh people were administered Covid vaccine between 11 am and 12 noon. The vaccination drive was held at 4,589 centres across the State.

According to an estimate, the record number of 13.53 lakh doses of Covid vaccine administered in the State, accounted for 47 per cent of the total jabs given across the country on Sunday. Rajasthan stood second in the country with a vaccination share of 12 per cent, followed by Gujarat with 7 per cent. The share of neighbouring Telangana in the total Covid jabs given across the country, was just 4 per cent.

APSRTC to resume bus services to Hyd

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) will resume bus services to Hyderabad starting Monday following the further relaxation of partial curfew imposed by the Andhra Pradesh government and also the unlock announced by its Telangana counterpart. Bus services between the two neighbouring States have stopped more than one-and-half month back with the governments imposing curfew with the rise in Covid infections in both the states.

4 weddings, and a raid... Councillor's kin too not spared

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

OFFICIALS of Mangaluru City Corporation and endowment department conducted raids on four wedding ceremonies that were being at the hall of Mangaladevi temple in the city and booked a case under Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act 2020 on Sunday. This included the wedding of BJP's MCC council member Bhaskar Chandra's daughter too.

These raids were led by Mangaluru Assistant Commissioner Madan Mohan after a complaint was received by the deputy commissioner that wedding functions were organised at a temple, violating the lockdown guidelines. More than 10 vehicles of guests parked outside the temple premises led to traffic jams for some time.

AC Madan Mohan said that the temple administration had given permission to hold four weddings at the same time, violating Covid guidelines. "We will book the organisers under the epidemic act and a detailed report will be sought in this regard," he said. The AC also checked the documents submitted to hold the marriage functions and took the temple managing trustee Ramanath Hegde to task. When Covid-19 cases are increasing in Dakshina Kannada, how can you allow weddings?" he questioned.

O_2 diktats leave Mysuru industries high and dry

AJITH M S @Mysuru

WHILE the state government has been pointing at the need to restart pandemic-hit industrial activity in Mysuru, several industries are unable to commence operations due to "unscientific diktats".

With the Covid situation easing, bringing much relief to industries, the government had lifted restrictions of oxygen supply to industries during first week of June, however, with riders like the appointment of a industry-health department committee to judge the supply and reservation of majority supply for medical need.

Now, industries say diktats like requirement of permission of bureaucrats and paper work for each refill as well as non-exclusion of many units in the distribution makes it difficult for them to start the activity. Chandrashekhar, who runs a small industrial unit supplying components to BEML, said he has been allotted two cylinders alone and asked to file a request with District Industries Centre for every refill. "I myself require one cylinder a day. How are we expected to go through the paper works and the delay that comes with it every day?," he said.

EXPRESS READ

No bail for 'inhuman' hospital staffer

Bengaluru: A city court rejected anticipatory bail to mortuary staffer Nagesh MB, in a case in which ambulance driver Sharat Gowda had dumped the body of a Covid patient on the footpath near Hebbal crematorium. On May 24 night, Nagesh, who works with Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, had told Arun Singh's family that the mortuary was full, and allegedly demanded `18,000 for an ambulance. The family gave `3,000 and promised the rest later. Gowda had demanded `15,000, and when the family requested for time, dumped the body and left. A case was registered, and Nagesh moved an anticipatory bail petition. Dismissing it, the judge said Nagesh had "behaved in an inhuman manner". **ENS**

punjab national bank ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ

ZONAL OFFICE-1, PNB HOUSE, ARERA HILLS, OLD JAIL ROAD, BHOPAL - 462011 | LL: 0755-4018251 | Email: zobhopal@pnb.co.in

E-Tender Notice

Online bids invited from reputed authorized PSAs licensed by respective state as per state PSA Act, and approved for providing CCVs and armed guards and for providing hired services of cash vans for remittance of cash to and from between our various branches offices and currency chests located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Name of the work	Tender Fee (in rupees)*	Period of contract
Providing hired customised cash van (ccv) services for cash remittance	5000/- + GST	3 year

*Firms registered under MSEs would be exempted from submission of Tender fee/cost. Interested bidders can download/apply from https://etender.pnbnet.in portal from 21.06.2021 3:01pm to 17.07.2021 3:01pm. Any amendment/corrigendum will be published on Bank's website https://www.pnbindia.in and https://etender.pnbnet.in. Bank also reserves the right to reject the application, if in the opinion of the Bank, the applicant is not meeting the eligibility criteria prescribed in the RFP.

ZONAL MANAGER

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Yagachi Project Division, Belur

Corrigendum to Short Term Tender Notification No.04/2021-22 Dt: 14-06-2021

(Through e-procurement portal only) In the Short Term Tender Notification No.: 04/2021-22, dated 14-06-2021 (Corrigendum notification) called on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore for the work of **"Diversion of Water from Ranaghatta Pick up Weir for filling of Dwarasamudra and other 6 tanks in Belur taluk, Hassan district and Belavadi tank in Chikkamagalore taluk of Karnataka state".** Modified as Contractor can get Tender Documents and Submission of Tenders upto Dtd:-29-06-2021 16.00 hours instead of 23-06-2021 11.00 hours and Technical Bid opening date is 30-06-2021 17.00 hours instead of 24-06-2021 12.00 hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, CNNL.,
Yagachi Project Division, Belur

ಪ್ರಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಟೆಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/೨೦೨೧/166/2021-22

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No.: EEE/MWD/AEE(O)/BLY/2020-21/325, 326 & 327 Date: 18.05.2021

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated a scheme under Section 67 of the Electricity Supply Act 2003 and the same is herewith published in pursuance of Section 67(ii) of the said Act for information of the general public. Particulars of the scheme are as follows:

I) Name of the Scheme: Upgradation of existing 33/11KV sub-station to 2X10MVA,110/11KV Sub-station at Itagi by constructing 110KV LILO line for a distance of 06 Kms from the existing 110KV Kampli tap line and stringing of second circuit on existing DC towers to 110Kv Kampli sub-station for a distance of 09 Kms along with construction of 01 terminal bay at Kampli (LILO of 110KV Munirabad – Sindhanur line–II) in Kampli Taluk, Ballari District.

Line passes through survey Numbers of lands through the following village limits and the details are as below:

1. Village: Jangamarakalludi, Sy.No: 30, 31, 43, 44, 46. **2. Village: Ayodhya,** Sy.No:242, 243, 244, 247, 122, 502, 83. **3. Village: Achalapura,** Sy.No: 64, 65, 66, 67, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 54, 55, 56, 57. **4. Village: Chikka Jantakalla,** Sy.No: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 26, 27, 28, 34, 35, 48, 54, 65, 66, 81, 82, 83, 84, 88, 90, 92, 93, 95, 96, 97, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111, 112, 113, 117, 119, 120, 160, 243/2, 244, 245, 262, 264, 278. **5. Village: Belagoduhalu,** Sy.No: 308, 309, 313, 314, 316, 318, 375, 376, 382, 535, 540, 541, 551, 554, 555, 557, 561, 578. **6. Village: Kampli,** Sy.No: 999, 1004, 1011, 1013, 1014, 1016, 1073,1075, 1080, 1084, 1085, 1101, 1102, 1105, 1366, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1380, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1400, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1413, 1414, 1416, 1417, 1419. **7. Village: Aralihalli,** Sy.No: 37, 38, 39, 82, 83, 87, 88, 89, 91, 92, 94, 95, 175, 176, 177, 180, **8. Village: Sanapura,** Sy.No: 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 41,46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 153, 154, 155, 156, 158, 159, 163, 166, 167, 184, 249, 251. **9. Village: Muddapura,** Sy.No: 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 71.

Salient Features: To improve reliability of Power Supply in the proposed 66/11kV Sub-Station at Ittagi (Muddapura) village limits. **Cost of Scheme: Rs 1560.65 Lakhs.**

II) Name of the Scheme: Establishing 2x10MVA,110/11KV Sub-station by construction of 110KV SC line on DC towers from 110/11KV Metri sub-station to the proposed 110/11KV sub-station at Emmiganuru in Kurugodu Taluk Ballari District.

Line passes through survey Numbers of lands through the following village limits and the details are as below:

1. Village: Metri, Sy.No: 163, 169. **2. Village: Javuku,** Sy.No.: 20, 21, 22, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37, 40, 96, 97, 101, 102, 103, 105, 107, 108, 112, 113, 114, 140, 142, 144, 145, 146, 148, 149, 150, 151, 155, 274. **3. Village: Hire Jayaganuru,** Sy.No: 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 37, 91. **4. Chikka Jayaganuru,** Sy.No: 135, 136, 137, 138, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181. **5. Village: Emmiganuru,** Sy.No: 948, 950, 951, 952, 956, 957, 966, 967, 968, 969, 971, 994, 998, 1001, 1442, 1444, 1434, 1441, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1412, 1411, 1410, 1409, 1403, 1404, 1402, 1400, 1401, 1394, 1385, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1375.

Salient Features: To improve reliability of Power Supply in the proposed 110/11kV Sub-Station at Emmiaganuru village limits.

Cost of Scheme: Rs 1406.06 Lakhs.

III) Name of the Scheme: Establishing of 1x12.5MVA, 66/11KV Sub-station at Chilakanahatti in Hospete Tq & Ballari Dist by construction of 66kv LILO line on DC towers from existing 66kv MSD Line for a distance of 0.296 Kms.

Line passes through survey Numbers of lands through the following village limits and the details are as below:

1. Village: Haruvanahalli, Sy.No: 108, 113, 116, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 127, 128

Salient Features: To improve reliability of Power Supply in the proposed 66/11kV Sub-Station at Chilakanahatti village limits.

Cost of Scheme: Rs 702.15 Lakhs

The Corporation shall have and shall exercise all powers which the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 (13 of 1885) for carrying of above scheme. Objections to the scheme if any should be sent to the Executive Engineer Elecl., Major Works Division, KPTCL., Ballari within 30 days from the date of publication of the notification for consideration by the Corporation.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Elec.),**
Major Works Division, KPTCL, Ballari.

EDITORIAL

"What unites us all is an urge for happiness, which at heart is yearning for union—for overcoming our feelings of separateness. We want to feel our identity with something larger than our small selves" — Sharon Salzberg

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.
— Ramnath Goenka

RENDERING JUSTICE TO VICTIMS OF WB POST-POLL VIOLENCE

A recent hearing before a five-judge Bench of the Calcutta High Court on the scale of the post-poll violence in West Bengal threw up worrying details on the Mamata Banerjee government remaining in denial. What is worse is the complete lack of action on complaints from the riot-hit forwarded to the superintendents of police for redressal. That thousands of people were forced to flee across rural Bengal due to revenge attacks by Trinamool goons on those who had switched sides; and that the ones who came back home are being threatened to withdraw their cases or face cross-affidavits and endless litigation are now before the court. Data compiled by the state legal services authority so far show affidavits of over 3,000 people being affected. The complaints fall under six broad heads: property vandalised or looted; those who fled and need restitution; ransom threats; assault or sexual assault; property encroachment; and shops or businesses forcibly closed. Yet, the court found that the Mamata government has not even responded to complaints of some of the displaced people. "The state cannot be allowed to proceed in the manner it likes... It is the duty of the state to maintain law and order and inspire confidence," the Bench commented, indicating the brazenness of the administration. It directed the NHRC to set up a committee to examine all complaints and make spot visits to verify them, warning any obstruction could attract contempt of court action. The panel has the mandate to point at persons prima facie responsible for the crimes and the officers who maintained calculated silence on the issue.

On a different note, sections of the civil society that rightly get worked up over human rights violations elsewhere have chosen to gloss over the situation in West Bengal. They instead pile on peripheral issues like the visit of the decidedly slanted and hyperactive Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to Delhi, lecturing about how an elected government should be allowed to freely function in democracy, ignoring its trampling of human rights. Normalising the violence, saying it happens after every election, amounts to ignoring the fundamental principle that democratic norms remain the same for any elected government.

TN HAS DONE WELL, MUST KEEP GUARD UP

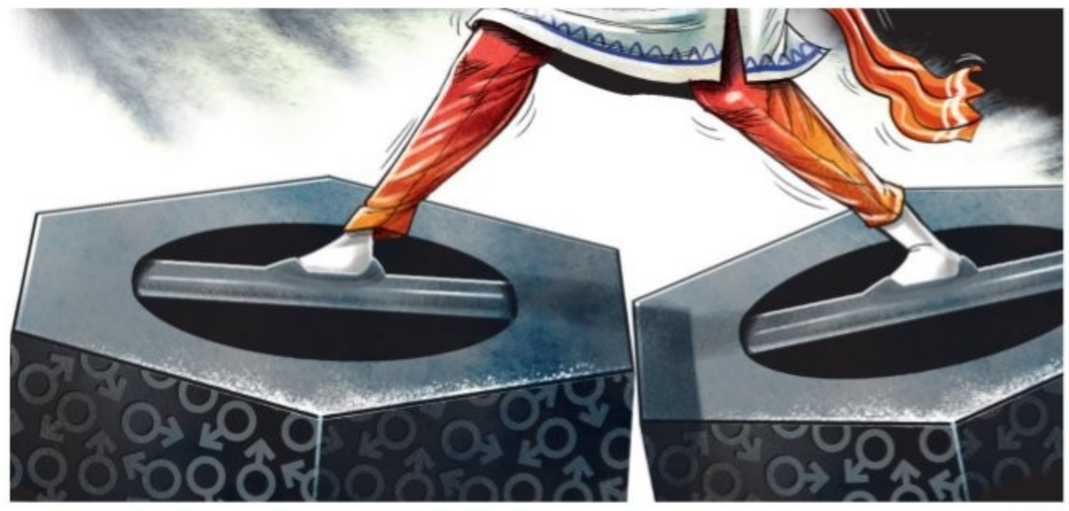
As the second wave of Covid cases is on the wane in Tamil Nadu, the state government has rightly taken a cautious approach in effecting a staggered 'unlocking' of restrictions in force. Acknowledging that a one-size-fits-all response is not feasible, the government has introduced more relaxations in districts such as Chennai, which peaked earlier and now has a test positivity rate of 3%, while maintaining status quo in districts such as Coimbatore, which is still reporting a TPR of 10%. However, although public transport is being opened up in four districts with low TPR, the state has wisely avoided allowing high-risk activities such as indoor dining.

The DMK government took office during the peak of the second wave in the state and, despite some stumbles, largely acquitted itself by managing a crisis in supply of medical oxygen and rapidly expanding TN's health infrastructure. Yet, ahead of any third wave of infections, it must keep its guard up. Surveillance and screening efforts by local bodies may be downsized but ought not be discontinued. Dismantling these systems as the first wave waned proved a mistake as patients fell through the cracks from March till May when these efforts were restarted across the state in earnest. As part of continuing surveillance, testing must remain easily accessible and regular fever camps, as initiated in Chennai, must continue across the state. Similarly, Tamil Nadu must embark on a transparent audit of deaths during the second wave so that the real cost of the pandemic is known, the kin of victims access benefits and every loss of life is recorded.

However, the key weapons against the coronavirus remain appropriate public behaviour and vaccination. Despite the state's best efforts, with limited vaccine supply, the inoculation efforts are yet to hit their stride. Meanwhile, it is essential that authorities model and reinforce appropriate behaviour and the public learns to comply.

Because of ages of almost universal conditioning and internalising, nobody even sees discriminatory responses as wrong. Therefore they get perpetuated

UNSEEN GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN A MAN'S WORLD



AMIT BANDRE

PRADIP PHANJOUBAM
Editor, Imphal Review of Arts and Politics

The debate over racial and gender abuse in the wake of the free-for-all on social media is today universal. The issue is especially relevant for the Northeast, for there is a general feeling amongst people here that they are victims of both in much of the rest of India. While there can be no argument that these abuses need to be not just condemned, but also befitting penalties reserved for offenders, the nature of social media being what it is, what is also called for is to specify and calibrate these offences. This is because, unlike physical abuses where the line demarcating aggression cannot be mistaken, what exactly can constitute similar abuses on the digital medium can be far less obvious. Can an insensitive or indecent remark amount to such an abuse per se or should these first form a persistent and insistent pattern before they can be termed thus? The key in coming to a decision on this must arguably be on the identification of aggression in them and the degree of it. However, certain inequalities are so entrenched and institutionalised that the discrimination resulting out of them may appear as nothing extraordinary and this is where things can get tricky. The Hollywood comedy-drama classic, *Tootsie*, articulated this like few others have.

For those old enough to remember it, this movie tells the story of a talented actor whose reputation of being difficult leaves him jobless. He is thus forced by difficult circumstances to adopt a new identity as a middle-aged woman to land an acting job. Soon enough, not only at his job environment but also in life after office, the expectations of friends and associates force him to continue maintaining his female identity and role. As the drama unfolds, expectedly many interesting situations arise when male associates begin to show romantic interest in him and he too gets attracted to a female friend.

The film's significance however goes far beyond its ability to provoke slapstick humour depending largely on farcical, incongruent and even outright stupid everyday situations. The achievement of *Tootsie* is, without even being sinister or clever at the expense of anybody or any institution as most satirical dramas strive for, it exposes successfully and endearingly how most societies, resting as they do on a patriarchal foundation, view and respond to the male and the female.

One scene is particularly remarkable. It was evening and Tootsie, late for an appointment, rushes out of her apartment with great unease because of the high-heeled shoes when he spots a taxi passing by from a distance; he waves at the taxi to stop, daintily calling out 'taxi' in the best female voice he could manage. The taxi ignores the voice and drives on. Then out of instinct and frustration, Tootsie assumes his real male self momentarily and in a typically aggressive male voice of extreme annoyance, roars 'TAXI'. The taxi screeches to a halt.

The grim message beyond the laughter is the modern truism of how most societies see and respond very differently to the male and female, even when it is only a voice. Because of ages of almost universal conditioning and internalising, nobody, not even the discriminated woman, sees these discriminatory responses as anything wrong, therefore these wrongs get perpetuated. Replace gender by race and the logic works very much the same way. Overt discriminations are easy to discern, and there would also be automatic resistance against them, but ones that have been reduced to the status of commonsensical intuition in the Gramscian way, through continued value reinforcement by society through generations, are the ones hard to notice, much less remove.

> Unseen gender discrimination is everywhere in any patriarchal society, even in those that have been praised for female empowerment. Look at Manipur. In its 60-member Legislative Assembly, currently there are only two women. ... The achievement of the film *Tootsie* is, without even being clever at the expense of anybody or any institution as most satirical dramas strive for, it successfully exposes how societies rest on a patriarchal foundation

Unseen gender discrimination is everywhere in any patriarchal society, even in those that have been praised for female empowerment. Look at Manipur. In its 60-member Legislative Assembly, currently there are only two women. In Parliament, it is even worse. Of its three allotted seats, two Lok Sabha and one Rajya Sabha, there is not even one woman representative. Currently of course there is one nominated to the Rajya Sabha, boxing star Mary Kom, but that is by Presidential appointment, not election by a constituency. Term after term, the scenario has been very much the same. Yet nobody sees anything abnormal in this. In neighbouring Nagaland and Mizoram, the situation is no better, if not worse.

There is also another fallacy in the response by many. In any effort to comprehend the full implications of these bad circumstances, and then come up with remedial measures, a section is of the opinion that only those who have had lived experiences of these abuses will be able to get to the depth of the problem. While lived experiences are extremely important, if those outside these experiences have not understood the extent of the hurts, it is because they have taken the matter too much for granted and not because they are incapable of comprehending it.

As Jeremy Rifkin explains in *The Empathic Civilisation*, humans are soft wired for empathy; and those gifted with empathy can get into the shoes of any other. Empathy is different from sympathy, which is about feeling sorry for another's plight, or compassion, which is about feeling sorry for another and wanting to help. Empathy goes beyond and is determined by mirror neurons that make a person actually feel what another feels, so he or she can cry or laugh or panic with the person's plight. If empathy did not exist, movies like *Tootsie* would have appealed to only the feminine gender. The rest would have remained cold to the film's message of what a woman in a man's world feels like.

(phanjoubam@gmail.com)

AUSTERITY & OTHER TAKE-HOMES FROM THE LOCKDOWN

DR SUNIL CHANDY
Former Director, CMC Vellore

The word 'lockdown' became known to us less than 18 months ago. We have now lived through lockdowns as a strategy of survival against the thorny spikes of an unseen monster. This restrictive formula of living has closely followed the crests and troughs of the pandemic itself. Though forced by the circumstances, the lockdown has given us a taste of living with limited means. In doing so, we may have been schooled into a new way of life even beyond the pandemic. It is a strange case-study of 'poverty in plenty' where, despite having a lot in our warehouses, it is neither available nor accessible to us. It has a parallel in the hibernation seen in the animal world that allows species to survive inclement weather. These are a few good lessons learnt through this ordeal of constraints.

1) We need very little to live. It has been an eye-opener to the realisation of how little we need to live reasonably. From the comfort of a lavish breakfast served on the table to fixing it yourself is an experience, different in nature but with the same nourishment from both. Bread, butter, jam, egg and one-course meals are good enough for us to thrive, not just survive. An occasional banquet can top up our culinary tastes. Compulsive shopping and frequent eat-outs are also dispensable. Fridges have been decluttered of the unused stuff bought weeks ago and replaced with simple food. Like the 'just in time' concept in management, 'just what we need' is the new insight. The lockdown brought down the need to travel unnecessarily, saving gallons of fuel and precious time apart from the risks of road accidents. Road safety statistics will vouch for this. We need to travel a lot less to live. The need for expensive clothing and designer garments have gone down too much, to the chagrin of the retailers, but it has prompted us to dig deep into our cupboards and fish out dresses worn once, or not at all. Wardrobes look decluttered and some of us have lots to give away.

2) Do it yourself: We have been able to revive some basic life-skills and fix small jobs without dependence on technicians. Fixing loose sockets to minor carpentry and plumbing, a small toolbox and the rediscovery of your hand skills are all that you need. Hidden interests and hobbies for which there was no time have been discovered, thanks to the hours the lockdown unlocked. Many have taken to cycling, yoga, meditation, photography and fitness as they discovered that a day actually has 24 hours, most of which was filled with man-made busyness. The five digits of our fingers are suddenly playing ballet with the rhythm of life. This do-it-yourself journey was waiting to be explored and enjoyed. It took a lockdown to remind us that life is not all big things and work, but small joys and play as well.

> Though forced by the circumstances, the lockdown has given us a taste of living with limited means. In doing so, we may have been schooled into a new way of life even beyond the pandemic

3) The lockdown of attitudes: Walk into a pharmacy or a departmental store and one can see the downside of lockdowns. They have been long and infectious enough to lull the salesmen's attitude into a stuporous state. There is a decline of that erstwhile welcome, enquiry or pro-active salesmanship that was typical of retail business. Instead, they seem preoccupied with the digital transactions needing OTPs, phone numbers and IDs that induce long delays. Every customer is viewed as a potential Covid carrier, made evident from the no-touch, 'keep a distance' approach. Sometimes even a rude reprimand. It is sending online commerce giants laughing their way to the banks, but not the retailer who is diving deeper and deeper into poverty. The owners of retail business must wake up to the perils of the genre of salesmanship enforced by the lockdown.

That said, during lockdowns, the air and roads are a lot cleaner and birds happier on treetops along with the tranquillity of no traffic in the evenings. It was our turn to be caged in the zoo, cared for by the vendors who supply food and material at our doorstep. Inside our homes, the candles were lit, a time of bonding between family members that stood neglected by the tractions of our work and lifestyle.

We may have discovered that austerity is what we need to embrace, as a way of life.

(sunilchandycmc@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

How many waves?

The AIIMS chief has rightly warned the country that if people drop guard after unlocking, the nation shall witness a third Covid wave in six-eight weeks (June 20). He should also advise the Centre to accelerate the pace of vaccination, prevent superspreader events like religious gatherings and election rallies, and placate farmers to stop their agitation by resolving their issues. The country is also desperate to know how many more Covid waves it will witness. People's patience is wearing thin as many have already been affected due to lack of livelihood. It does not make sense to safeguard them from the virus alone.
Deepak Singhal, Noida

Status reports

This is with reference to the articles *Flabbergasted by incompetence* and *Saffron dilution stokes dissent in BJP ranks* (June 20). Both the columns can be seen as status reports on the performance of the prime minister. The BJP leadership is more interested in costly buildings and is ignoring the woes of the common man.
Sathyam N, Tiruchanur

Legendary sprinter

It is extremely sad to read about the demise of legendary sprinter Milkha Singh, who passed away after a month-long battle with Covid in Chandigarh. Milkha's greatest moment was the fourth-place finish in the 400m final in the 1960 Rome Olympics.
C Ghanshyam, Visakhapatnam

Great athlete

Milkha Singh, the Flying Sikh, was a legend in Indian sports. The great athlete won four gold medals in the Asian Games.
Sundaram Govind, Aluva

India's loss

The nation has lost a legendary athlete. It is all the more sad that only last week Milkha's wife Nirmal Kaur, a former national volleyball captain, passed away due to the same illness.
R Sivakumar, Chennai

Vaccine shortage

Vaccines are not easily available in government hospitals in Mangaluru and the elderly are finding it difficult. In private hospitals, the jab is expensive and people who work for daily wages can't afford it.
Dhanush K, Mangaluru

Unnecessary antagonism

In the last more than one month since it assumed office, the Tamil Nadu government's approach towards the Centre has been unnecessarily antagonistic. The TN chief minister handing over a list of 63 demands to the prime minister has to be seen in this perspective.
S Retnaswamy, Chennai

Helpline numbers needed

When compared to other media, print has the maximum credibility. But very few papers publish helpline contact numbers when they report suicide stories. The numbers also convince readers to help distressed people approach an appropriate counsellor.
P Satya Lakshmi, Secunderabad

Apathy over heritage theft

This is with reference to *No one stole our country's Gods* (Jun 18). It is disheartening to note the lack of progress in multiple heritage theft cases, and the general apathy of agencies such as the HR&CE department and ASI. While smaller countries like Cambodia have been able to stake claim and successfully restitute many stolen artefacts, India, despite all its infrastructure and personnel, has been found wanting. I hope the authorities wake up and take proactive steps at least now to protect our invaluable cultural heritage.
Swaminathan K, Chennai

SL move condemnable

This is with reference to *Fishers fear loss of livelihood as SL dumps vehicles in sea* (June 17). Sri Lanka's move to create an artificial reef will not only pollute the sea and affect aquatic species, but also hurt the livelihood of fishermen.
Edmond V Rayen, Tuticorin

Enough evidence present

It seems there is enough evidence to say that the coronavirus escaped from the Wuhan Institute of Virology in China. Millions have died. All nations should unite and take action against China.
Tincy K Joseph, email

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Yashwant Sinha @YashwantSinha
Take away 100%. Then return 50% and earn all round praise. That is what Modi has done and is doing in Jammu and Kashmir

Dr Harsh Vardhan @drharshvardhan
Empathy, compassion & sustainability - 3 key pillars to be focus on to resolve the plight of #refugees and protect #HumanRights

Rahul Gandhi @RahulGandhi
Out of a population of 135 cr, 80 cr need free ration under 'Garib Kalyan'. Another painful example of 'Vikas' of Modi government

₹4 lakh for each Covid death not feasible: Centre

Government tells Supreme Court states will run out of money for all other emergencies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre has informed the Supreme Court that ₹4 lakh cannot be given to all Covid-19 victims as compensation because it would exhaust the disaster relief funds. It said that compensation only applies to natural disasters.

"If ex-gratia of ₹4 lakh is given for every person who loses life due to Covid-19, the entire amount of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) may possibly be spent on this item alone, and indeed the total expenditure may go up further," the Centre said in a 183-page affidavit.

The Centre's response came following a petition seeking minimum standards of relief and ex-gratia for lives lost in the pandemic. According to figures released by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, 3,86,713 persons had died in the country of Covid-19, until 8 am on Sunday.

The Centre also cited that due to increased health expenses and low tax revenue, it is beyond the budget of the states to pay compensation for each and every Covid victim.

"If the entire SDRF funds get consumed on ex-gratia for Covid-19 victims, then the states may not have sufficient funds for organising Covid-19 response, for provision of various essential medical and other supplies, or to take care of other disasters like cyclones, floods, etc. Hence, the prayer of the petitioner for payment of ex-gratia to all deceased persons due to Covid-19, is beyond the fiscal affordability of the state governments," the Centre added in its response.

> **If entire SDRF funds get consumed on ex-gratia for Covid victims, states may not have funds for Covid response, for provision of medical & other supplies, or to take care of disasters like cyclones, floods... Ex-gratia to all deceased persons due to Covid is beyond the affordability of state govts**
>
> Centre to Supreme Court

The Centre also reminded the apex court of its previous judgment to keep away from executive policies and that the judiciary cannot decide on behalf of the government. The matter will come up for hearing on Monday.

"It is well settled through numerous judgements of the Supreme Court that this is a matter which should be performed by the authority, to whom it has been entrusted and not one where the court will substitute its own judgement for the decision to be taken by the executive," the government said.

The affidavit also said that all Covid deaths, regardless of where it takes place, should be recorded as Covid-19 deaths. It said that till now, only deaths of Covid-19 patients that took place in hospitals were certified as Covid deaths and those that happened at home or even at hospital parking lots were not, leading to a discrepancy in toll numbers. A total of 1576 fresh fatalities were reported from across the country in the last 24 hours, according the I&B ministry release.

WHY PFIZER MAY BE INSISTING ON INDEMNITY

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

THE government's attempt to bring Pfizer's much-acclaimed Covid-19 vaccine to India has so far been scuppered by the US pharmaceutical giant's insistence on granting indemnity. Indemnity is a legal bond that protects vaccine makers from being sued if a recipient suffers grievous side effects.

For the American drug manufacturer, indemnity is learnt to be non-negotiable. This is not surprising because even without the indemnity, Pfizer and all other vaccine producers enjoy a huge amount of protection against any legal liability in the US and European countries, something these companies will not have if India does not grant indemnity. The protection stems mainly from four privileges drug manufacturers enjoy.

Law against injuries

In 1986, the US Congress during the Reagan administration passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. The law protects vaccine manufacturers from any financial liability on account of an adverse event following immunization, or vaccine injury in their parlance.

The law was passed in the backdrop of an increase in lawsuits being filed in state courts of the US against producers of the DPT vaccine (diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus). Many Americans feared, perhaps unfoundedly, that the vaccine was causing brain damage.

The lawsuits resulted not only in protracted battles in the courts but slowed the production of the vaccines and resulting in DPT vaccine prices skyrocketing.

Compensation fund

Under the NCVIA, the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program was started. The VICP provides for compensation to people found to have developed side effects owing to vaccines. This compensation fund was already in existence in the United Kingdom and it was later replicated by other European countries.

In the UK, where indemnity has been granted to Pfizer, the government has added Covid shots to the already existing Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme wherein a one-time payment is given to individuals left disabled by vaccine side-effects.

There is, however, an upper limit of £1,20 000 on awards and so amounts are lower than damages awarded by courts. Similarly in the US, a compensation fund is created by a cess, which ranges from $0.75 to $4.50 on each vaccine dose which may cost anything from $12-220 per dose.

In India there is no such compensation system, making Pfizer and other vaccine makers to fear lengthy legal battles that may take at least 10-12 years before compensation is awarded. This too is subject to appeal in higher courts.

US top court ruling

In a far-reaching judgment in 2013 in a case between Mutual Pharmaceutical Company and Karen L Bartlett of New Hampshire, the US Supreme Court held that generic drug manufacturers cannot be held liable under any state law. Bartlett sued the company arguing that the drug for shoulder pain caused her to develop side effects.

The top court ruled that only federal courts can decide such matters. "This ruling bars court cases against drug companies, which is not there in India," said Deepshikha Malhotra, a lawyer.

Class action suit

Drug manufacturers in advanced countries also benefit from the imperatives of class action suits against any wrongdoing by a company. A class action suit is a legal case filed by more than one individual to seek damages.

"But a class action suit has many limitations for vaccine recipients and is loaded in favour of drug companies. Firstly, there has to be at least 50 of them seeking damages and secondly, they should have faced the same or similar side effects from the vaccine," said Malhotra.

India's massive population could also be balking Pfizer and the others. According to Supreme Court lawyer K V Dhananjay, "the more the population the more ye likelihood of liability towards victims of vaccine harm."

"As such, Pfizer might be concerned about the exposure to such a large Indian market. If the government badly wants Pfizer to augment vaccine supplies to India, it may very well think about indemnifying it," he said.

The speed with which the Covid vaccines have been developed worldwide is why all manufacturers are seeking indemnity. "Previously all the vaccines that were launched were rolled out only after 3-4 years of trials, but Covid vaccines were available in a few months only. So some risk factor is always there," said advocate Ankur Raheja.

Shreya Jha, an AIIMS doctor also said had more time been given to vaccine manufacturers for their rollout, such indemnity clauses would not be mandatory.

COVID TRACKER

81 DAYS AFTER DAILY TALLY FELL BELOW 60K

7,29,243 Active cases

30,776 Net decline in cases

18,11,446 Tests on Saturday

1.29% NATIONAL FATALITY RATE

3.22% DAILY POSITIVITY RATE

96.27% NATIONAL RECOVERY RATE

24.53 L Doses to be received by states/UTs in next 3 days

3.06 cr Vaccine doses available with states & UTs

Source: Union Health Ministry

HELPLINE NUMBERS ▸ 1075: National helpline **1098:** Child helpline **14567:** Senior citizens helpline
08046110007: Helpline of NIMHANS for psychological support

Six new CJIs in six years likely, goes against law panel's suggestion

NEXT IN LINE

KANU SARDA @ New Delhi

INDIA will see six Chief Justices in a span of six years beginning this year. The current Chief Justice of India N V Ramana will head the institution for a year or so only.

With a sanctioned strength of 34 judges, six positions of judges are lying vacant in the Supreme Court and four judges will retire by the end of this year.

Three more judges will retire by August 2022, and with this, CJI Ramana will have an opportunity to recommend the names of around 13 Supreme Court judges during his tenure ending next year in August.

The line of succession till 2027 will also see the youngest Justice D Y Chandrachud as the Chief Justice of India, who will head the institution for over two years.

With the exception of unforeseen circumstances, such as death, early retirement or impeachment, the order of upcoming Chief Justices of India is all set.

With the Law Commission of India's recommendation that the Chief Justice of India should have a minimum tenure of two years in the apex court, an analysis of the future CJIs based on their seniority reveals that no judge would be able to stay there beyond a year and a half.

At the age of 65, Supreme Court judges retire. But for becoming Chief Justice of India, the date on which the judge was appointed to the apex court plays a crucial role rather than his age. In case, two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court the same date, the one who takes oath first will get the priority followed by the judge who has put in more years of high court service.

Such a short tenure of the judges in the top court that is fighting with the pendency of over three crore cases can hamper the chances of clearing the backlog. It can also reduce the chances for a CJI to implement new changes and bring in a policy that will help in improving the present system.

However, if we compare the tenure of judges in other countries, we find that Indian judges have a much shorter tenure.

Judges retire at the age of 75 in the UK, 70 years in Canada, Australia, Belgium and Norway. They work for lifetime in United States, Russia, New Zealand and Iceland, subject to physical and mental fitness.

The last increase in retirement age of high court judges was made in 1963, when it was raised from 60 years to 62 years. The proposal to increase the age further was mooted in 2008 by the then Law Minister HR Bhardwaj.

JUSTICE U U LALIT

JUSTICE D Y CHANDRACHUD

JUSTICE SANJIV KHANNA

JUSTICE B R GAVAI

JUSTICE SURYAKANT

Vaccination nod for pregnant women on the cards

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

Doors of vaccination centres likely to open for pregnant women soon | EXPRESS

THE Union health ministry is likely to allow Covid-19 vaccination for pregnant women soon, following recommendation from expert groups, multiple government officials have told this newspaper.

As of now, lactating women are allowed for vaccination. But the government has not recommended jabs for pregnant women due to lack of safety data. Officials said a decision on issuing guidelines on this is set to be taken following recommendations by the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, which were later evaluated by the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19.

"These groups discussed the benefit versus risk of Covid-19 for women in all stages of pregnancy and concluded that pregnant women should have the option of opting for vaccinations," said a senior official.

A health ministry official said as suggested by experts, Covaxin may be recommended for Covishield, as inactivated virus-based vaccines have been found safer for pregnant women. In its May 28 meeting, NTAGI had said pregnant women should be offered vaccines with information on risks associated and benefits.

"A member suggested comparing the risk of complication with exposure, with the risk of clotting after Covishield," say the minutes of the meeting. It was suggested that the risk-benefit ratio of administration of vaccine during the surge of the pandemic in pregnant women has been thought of, while recommending vaccination for pregnant women and when the surge is coming down, the risk may be monitored.

In addition, the safest of vaccines must be considered, as pregnancy is a matter of two lives, the expert group said, adding that outcome of the pregnancy may also be taken into account while considering the risks. It had also asked for studies to be put in place immediately to monitor the safety of Covishield and Covaxin among pregnant women.

Officials said that as per the suggestions, an educational tool comprising information on the risk of Covid-19 infection during pregnancy, benefits associated with the vaccine and rare complications associated with vaccines such as thrombosis and thrombocytopenia (associated with Covishield) will be developed and communicated to pregnant women before administering the vaccine.

NTAGI last month had also highlighted a recent report of death of a pregnant woman who took the AstraZeneca vaccine in Brazil, due to which the immunization programme of pregnant women in Brazil was put on hold. "The AEFI is being investigated. Since killed vaccines have an established safety profile in pregnant women, Covaxin or killed vaccines may be the first choice in pregnant women, as per availability," the group had suggested.

An ICMR study has shown that pregnant and postpartum women were more severely affected during the second wave.

Is deforestation penalty irrational?

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

Environment issues often became talking point in recent times | EXPRESS

TOP authorities in the Union environment ministry have asked the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) to rationalise the penalty it has recommended for violations of Forest (Conservation) Act. The penalty has been levied on the ministry for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes without official approval.

The FAC is a panel of experts appointed by the ministry to appraise infrastructure projects involving diversion of forest land. The body makes recommendations, but the decision is taken by the Union environment minister.

This panel in its meeting on February 17 recommended that penalty be imposed. "The Penal levies (Net Present Value (NPV) of the forest land, Compensatory Afforestation amount) for the violation of the provisions of FCA 1980, shall be deposited in the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) fund," it noted.

During examination of the FAC's recommendation, the competent authority observed there is need to rationalise the amount of penalty. Sources said, the competent authority is the environment minister.

The committee noted that in most cases, somebody or the other from the officials or authorities of the states are party to violation. The penalty recovered is credited to state CAMPA for use in the same states. It can run into several crores depending on the size of forest diversion. The penalty is five times NPV, which is amount (₹5.8 to ₹10.43 lakh per hectare) deposited by user agency to compensate for afforestation.

During the rule of NDA government, reports of construction through forests marked for conservation have come to the fore on occasions. The government has also been accused of overlooking environment in its development drives.

"A few times, violation takes place without the user agency being aware of the land being forest land or being misguided into believing it to be non-forest land, particularly in the absence of accurate record. In such cases penalty needs to be less compared to cases where PP knowingly encroached upon forest land with/without knowledge of state authority," noted the FAC on May 31 .

EXPRESS READ

JD-U INCENTIVE FOR VACCINATION WORKERS

PATNA: Bihar's ruling JD-U has decided to felicitate workers who provide impetus to the vaccination campaign. Announcing this on Sunday, the party in a virtual meeting called upon JD-U workers to ramp up the vaccination process in their areas on a mission mode. As an incentive, the party announced that the workers who achieve the goal of 100 per cent vaccination in their respective areas will be felicitated.

Galloping rise in cases during Kumbh gathering

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The figures indicated two things: either fake testing was going on rampantly, or the numbers were covered up, deliberately or otherwise. But either way, the authorities did not appear to have smelt a rat.

Haridwar district magistrate C Ravishankar attributed the low detection to rapid antigen tests. "Thousands of people were arriving daily and it was not possible to conduct RT-PCR test of everyone coming."

Haridwar DM C Ravishankar sought to deflect blame. "The labs that conducted tests were hired by the mela administration," he said.

It was after a Faridkot resident complained that he received a message for collecting his Covid-19 report despite never having been tested, did the scam surface. The complaint triggered a probe that unearthed roughly 1,00,000 fake tests, allegedly conducted by Max Corporate Services.

On Friday, Uttarakhand police formed an SIT to probe how an unknown private agency secured the contract for testing during the mela. Another investigation by the district administration is on.

The Uttarakhand government also failed to comply with a high court order on testing in Haridwar. The court had ordered a minimum of 50,000 tests a day. In 30 days, authorities should have conducted at least 15 lakh tests. But only a little over 6 lakh tests were done. The pandemic galloped during and after Kumbh. Prior to the event on March 31, total cases in the state was 1,863. On April 30, the day the Kumbh officially concluded, the number had climbed to 49,492. April set Covid records in Uttarakhand. The state saw 80,110 cases and 907 deaths. This was surpassed in May, possibly on account of the mela effect. There were 1,48,973 cases, 3,828 deaths.

"If investigation shows data inaccuracies, the government should not hesitate in accepting errors," said Anoop Nautiyal, whose Social Development for Communities Foundation has been analysing data since March, 2020.

EXTRA MARKS

Haryana CM announced a new policy wherein extra marks will be given to those students from Classes 8 to 12 who will nurture plant saplings. This provision in the final exam will be for the students of state's board , he said

75 PSA PLANTS TO BE SET UP FOR O2 IN PUNJAB HOSPS

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	33	25	Mumbai	32	25
Bhopal	33	23	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	37	25	Patna	32	25
Amritsar	38	26	Lucknow	33	26
Chennai	38	28	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	31	27	Imphal	29	21
Srinagar	28	16	Chandigarh	37	25

RSS alerted BJP of Roy's pre-poll proximity to TMC

BJP restricted his election activities after getting report, say sources

PRANAB MONDAL @Kolkata

Mukul Roy recently re-joined TMC after a three-year stint with the BJP | EXPRESS

MONTHS before the West Bengal Assembly elections, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) had alerted the BJP's national leadership that Trinamool Congress turncoat Mukul Roy was in touch with the ruling party, sources in the saffron camp said. Roy and his son Subhrangshu recently re-joined the Trinamool Congress after a three-year stint with the BJP.

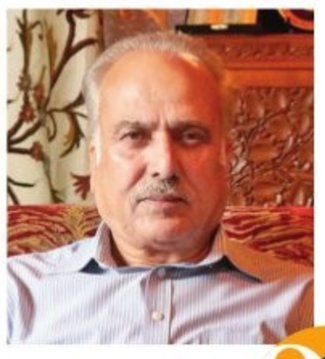
After receiving the RSS alert, the BJP high command had decided to censor Roy and restrict his activities, said a BJP leader in Kolkata. "The party had given Roy to work on his own in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Many out of 18 MPs elected from Bengal are known as Roy's followers and were fielded in the election based on his recommendation. But in the 2021 Assembly elections, he was not involved in organisational activities. Instead, he was confined to an Assembly constituency from where he was fielded," said the leader.

According to sources, the RSS, in its report, said Roy was in touch with top TMC leaders not only over the phone but also met them in person. Roy was made the convenor of the state election committee of the BJP in 2019, the move helped the party perform exceptionally well in the Lok Sabha polls. The BJP's national general secretary branded Roy as BJP's Chanakya (kingmaker) in Bengal.

"Roy's bitter relationship with the BJP started when he was not given any berth in the party's Bengal hierarchy even after his impressive performance in the Lok Sabha polls. It was because state president Dilip Ghosh and his lobby were against Roy and his followers. A year after the 2019 general elections, Roy was made BJP's national vice-president without giving any particular state or region to oversee. The Bengal's veteran politician realised the portfolio was nothing other than an ornament," said another BJP leader.

Roy's "inactivity" became prominent at the end of 2020 when the poll bugle in Bengal was sounded. "The RSS said in its letter that since then Roy was in touch with the TMC. Roy, too, adopted a soft line while attacking the ruling party and CM Mamata Banerjee during poll campaigns at a time when our high command had launched a blistering attack on the TMC," said the leader.

'GOVT REALISED ITS MISTAKES IN J&K'



*SENIOR National Conference leader and MP **Hasnain Masoodi** in an interview told **Fayaz Wani** that the Centre's invite to mainstream political leaders of J&K for an all-party meeting (APM), to be chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24, is a significant development. He said the move indicates the Centre has realised that the August 5, 2019, decisions have not achieved anything on the ground. He asserted that his party leaders would raise the demand of restoring Article 370 at the meeting.*

Why is the invitation for the meeting on J&K significant?

It is very significant because till yesterday they were abusing and labelling us as "Gupkar Gang", and now, they have approached us for a dialogue. It is a good realisation. It indicates that the government of India has gone for some kind of appraisal and it must have realised that the decisions of scrapping Article 370 and bifurcation of the state into two UTs have not achieved anything on the ground.

Will the NC only talk about the restoration of statehood or delimitation as well in the APM?

That is not possible. We are trustees of the aspirations of the J&K people. The NC is not just a political party but a political movement. The NC is a grand-old party, and we have rendered a lot of sacrifices. We respect the interests and aspirations of people and will go accordingly.

Will your party raise the Article 370 restoration demand?

We are committed to Article 370 restoration. Whatever we say it would be focused on August 5, 2019, decisions. We want permanent, durable and lasting peace in J&K, and to achieve that, we cannot go for ad-hoc experiments. There can be lasting peace in J&K when the aspirations of people are addressed. Our agenda is very clear - we should be given back what was snatched away from us without consulting us.

Will PAGD leaders collectively or individually raise their issues at APM?

I am the coordinator of the PAGD. First, the parties, which have received the invites, will discuss it with their members and leaders for their views. After the party-level talks, the PAGD leaders would meet and discuss the united strategy. The PAGD leaders would meet ahead of the June 24 meeting with the PM to discuss the joint strategy.

It is being said internal and external factors are the reason behind the Centre's invitation? How do you see this?

I think it is everything put together. The world has now become a global village and it reacts to whatever happens. The Kashmir issue was discussed at G-5 and they have also issued statements. Now, the LoC and IB in J&K have fallen silent after India and Pakistan in February agreed to adhere to the November 2003 ceasefire. There is total calm and peace along the borders. Have the two countries agreed to adhere to the border ceasefire on their own? Besides, there have been some other developments on the India-Pakistan front. A lot of things are happening on the backchannel.

IN TROUBLED WATERS

Police rescue people trapped due to floods in Sherpur Bela village in Haridwar on Sunday, while villagers (R) cross a flooded road in West Bengal's Birbhum | PTI

Youth groups staged a protest against BRO in Kimin on Saturday | EXPRESS

Arunachal locals fume after BRO shows Kimin town as part of Assam

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @Guwahati

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh may have made a spirited statement on "peace" and "aggression" on June 17, but he also ended up reigniting an inter-state border row. After e-dedicating 12 border roads built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to the nation that day, Singh had tweeted about attending the programme in the "North East" and shared a statement of his ministry that suggested the event was held in Lakhimpur district of Assam.

Now, various organisations in Arunachal are hitting the streets, baying for the BRO's blood for "misleading" the Defence Ministry. They as well as BJP Lok Sabha MP from the state Tapir Gao said the venue of the Singh's event was Kimin in Arunachal, and it is well within the frontier state. "The BRO has created a misunderstanding between Assam and Arunachal by misguiding the Defence Minister. Kimin is in Arunachal, not Assam," Gao told this newspaper on Sunday. He said ahead of Singh's event, the words "Arunachal" and "Kimin", written on landmarks and structures in Kimin, were covered with "white paste".

"By doing this, they tried to erase Arunachalhood. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma was with the defence minister that day. He also knows Kimin is in Arunachal. The BRO officer concerned should be booked. The Arunachal government should file an FIR against the official," Gao demanded.

> The officer, who had issued directions to conceal the words Arunachal and Kimin should also be booked. The BRO should apologise to the people of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh
>
> Tapir Gao, BJP MP

Sources said possibly, the venue was deliberately mentioned as in Assam for "strategic" reasons. But Gao said: "I know Rajnath Singh Ji. He is the one who will not be bothered by what China is saying."

The All Kimin Youth Welfare Association had staged a protest against the BRO in Kimin on Saturday. It described the incident as an insult to Arunachal as well as Kimin.

Similarly, the All Nyishi Youth Association demanded that the state government conduct a probe and find out why the BRO had insulted Arunachal and its people.

EXPRESS READ

Tripura: 3 suspected cattle lifters lynched

Guwahati: Three people were allegedly lynched in the Khowai district of Tripura on suspicion of cattle theft in the early hours of Sunday. Villagers of Namanjoypara spotted a mini-truck heading towards Agartala, carrying five cattle, around 4.30 am, SP Kiran Kumar said. They managed to stop the vehicle near North Maharanipur village. A case was registered and an investigation is underway, he said. No arrests were made yet, police said.

Chirag to take out yatra from dad's birth anniv

New Delhi: Lok Janshakti Party leader Chirag Paswan on Sunday announced "aashirvaad yatra" from July 5, the birth anniversary of his father and party founder Ram Vilas Paswan, from Hajipur in Bihar, as he seeks popular legitimacy in a battle with the rival faction headed by his uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras for the party's ownership. Paswan made the announcement following a meeting of the LJP national executive.

Under ED scanner, Sena MLA urges Thackeray to patch up with BJP, PM

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

SHIV Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik, who is under the Enforcement Directorate's scanner for alleged money laundering, has urged Maharashtra CM and Sena president Uddhav Thackeray to "reconcile" with the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi "before it is too late", saying such a move will save leaders like him from problems being created by "Central agencies".

In his June 10 letter addressed to Thackeray, Sarnaik alleged the Congress and NCP, which are constituents in the Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government, were weakening the saffron party by creating divisions in its ranks and also pointed out that civic polls are due in many cities, including Mumbai, in coming months.

Sarnaik, an MLA from Thane city, also stated that even though the alliance with the BJP has broken, personal and harmonious relations between leaders of the 'yuti' (Shiv Sena-BJP) remain. "It is better to reconcile before it is too late," the MLA said in the letter.

As the letter caused a flutter, the Congress reacted cautiously, saying it was an internal matter of the Sena while NCP state unit president Jayant Patil said he did not know any Sena workers crossing over to the Congress or NCP in Maharashtra. Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil said, "Sarnaik reiterated what the BJP has been saying from the last 18 months" (about allying with the Sena again).

Notably, the Sena had allied with the NCP and Congress to form the MVA government in November 2019 after the Uddhav Thackeray-led party fell out with the BJP after the Maharashtra Assembly polls over the post of the CM.

EMPOWERMENT

Bihar govt to give 35% quota in field posts to women officers

RAJESH THAKUR @Patna

CLOSE on the heels of a recent announcement of providing 33% reservation to girls in medical and engineering college admissions, Bihar CM Nitish Kumar has directed officials to ensure at least 35% reservation in the posting of women officers on various posts — from SHO to the SDM levels.

Upon receiving the order, the general administration department (GAD) of the state government has directed all offices to furnish details on the strength of women employees and officers in their departments.

The latest directive is in line with the Nitish government's thrust on women empowerment and could mean more female subdivisional magistrates (SDM), block development officers (BDO), circle officers (CO) and station house officers (SHO). Government sources said details on the strength of women employees will be submitted to the CM at the next meeting to be held by July 2.

"Thanks to Nitish Kumar, Bihar has the highest number of women cops (23,245) in the state's total strength of police force of 91,862. Besides 50% of the total posts of Panchayat Raj institutions are held by women", said a woman educationist Dr Archana Kumari.

GUARDIANS

Orphaned sisters get help from landlord, celebs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Lucknow

Prem Kumar Pandey and his wife Manju are more than landlord to two minor sisters Srishti and Mansi (name changed). They are now grandparents and legal guardians to the girls, aged 11 and six years, who were lost their parents to coronavirus within three days last month.

Pandey, a 60-year-old advocate, will now be seeing that the two girls attain their dreams of becoming a dental surgeon and a police officer. "Both of them are our responsibility till they attain their dreams. I'll soon start process of becoming their legal guardian and take care of their needs, including their education. Though I lost their parents, who were very close to us, God has gifted me two granddaughters. While the elder of the two sisters is aged 11 and is Class VI student, the five years younger sister is in Class III. They'll continue to study," Pandey told this newspaper.

Help has been pouring in for the two girls. Popular comedian Raju Srivastava, who hails from Kanpur, has handed a cheque to Pandey for supporting the little ones. Kanpur's singing prodigy Guntaas Kaur too contributed for them. "We're now working to get a bank account opened for the two sisters soon, so that many more Kanpurites can send money directly in their account," Pandey said.

Those eager to support to support the cause of the two sisters, include IPS officer Raveena Tyagi. Also, a group of traders led by Akhil Bhartiya Udyog Vyapar Mandal too have helped with cash along with other necessities.

The good news is that the two sisters are not the only one who have received help. Seven more such families, who either lost both parents or earning member, have got helping hand from the 150-strong Kanpur based traders group 'COVID Sewa Vyapari Group.'

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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BJP, RSS find their Maratha face

The BJP and the RSS have zoomed in on Ashish Shelar for grooming another strong face in Maharashtra apart from former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. Shelar, the second-time BJP MLA from Bandra–East, shares cordial ties with Amit Shah. Shelar joined RSS in school days and completed Prathamik Varsha course. He went on to join ABVP in college and successfully rose to the leading position of Mumbai Secretary of ABVP. During his brief stint as a minister, Shelar did a remarkable work in education sector. As Maratha leader, he has acceptance not only in the party's rank and file but also in rural hinterland. Fadnavis, a Brahmin, never managed to strike a chord with Maratha masses. Shelar was instructed by the RSS, BJP leaders to visit every nook and corner of the state and connect with the masses. Once this social engineering is done, Shelar may be in for a big responsibility in the state.

Maratha quota stir: BJP unhappy with Sambhaji

Chatrapati Sambhaji leading the Maratha agitations has lead to an uncomfortable situation with the BJP. The saffron leadership obviously is not happy with its Rajya Sabha MP. Now, the Maha Vikas Aghadi wants to tap this acrimony and plans to widen the gap between Sambhaji and BJP further. Sambhaji had tried to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi for raising the issue of reservation for Marathas. He wrote three letters seeking an appointment with Modi but none to avail. This, perhaps, made the MP resolute in his support to the quota demand. BJP state president Chandrakant Patil slammed Sambhaji and reminded him that he is an MP because of the BJP. Sambhaji shot back saying that he did go to the BJP office to become the MP and it was the BJP which came to his doorstep with the request.

Uddhav Thackeray's mind games with NCP

After Sharad Pawar's and Praful Patel's met BJP leader Amit Shah in Ahmedabad at a businessman's residence, Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray decided to hobnob with the senior BJP leader and PM Modi to send an indirect signal that Sena can patch with BJP if need arises. In the meeting with Uddhav, Modi is said to have given an offer to the Sena chief of continuing as chief minister while he would have two deputies from BJP. Also, an equal number of seats were on offer in both the state and general elections. Moreover, Sena will be given good portfolios in the Union Cabinet expansion. Uddhav, however, has not responded to the offer yet.

Patole seeks Vastu help to fulfill CM dream

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole, the OBC face of the party, is said to nurture the ambitious dream of becoming the chief minister of Maharashtra. Patole refused to sit at the Congress office at Tilak Bhavan, Dadar due to a Vastu dosh. Such is his belief in Vastu that he changed the entire sitting arrangement at the Dadar office. He also did pooja and havan at Tilak Bhavan. Astrologers have apparently told Patole that all his obstacles are now cleared and none can stop him to become the chief minister. The Sena and Congress, adversaries for decades, formed government ialong with the NCP after Uddhav Thackeray fell out with the BJP.

15 people died after gunmen aboard several vehicles stage attacks in the Mexican border city of Reynosa

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	36	21	SNY	Los Angeles	26	16	SNY
Colombo	30	27	LC	Melbourne	15	4	SNY
Dhaka	31	26	TDS	Moscow	32	20	LC
Dubai	42	30	SNY	New York	30	21	LC
Houston	33	25	TDS	Singapore	31	26	TDS
Istanbul	25	18	LR	Toronto	26	11	TDS
London	14	11	LR	Washington	34	22	LC

We find ourselves with a Democratic White House, Senate and House and they are angry. We need to change the way we work with them

New Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid on challenges his country faces in Washington

US-ISRAEL RELATIONS REACH CROSSROADS

The new leaders of US and Israel have inherited a relationship that is imperiled by increasingly partisan domestic political considerations and an engrained recognition that they need each other. How US Prez Joe Biden and Israeli PM Naftali Bennett manage that relationship will shape the prospects for peace and stability in the Middle East

WHAT THEY WANT

The two countries are ushering in an era no longer defined by the powerful personality of ex-Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, who repeatedly defied the Obama administration and then reaped the rewards of a warm relationship with President Donald Trump. Bennett's government says it wants to repair relations with the Democrats and restore bipartisan support in the US for Israel. Biden is pursuing a more balanced approach on the Palestinian conflict and Iran.

Joe Biden

Naftali Bennett

THE CHALLENGES

The relationship is critical to both nations. Israel has long seen US as its closest ally. US counts on Israel's intelligence & military prowess in a turbulent Middle East.

Both Biden and Bennett are restrained by domestic politics. Bennett leads an uncertain coalition of 8 parties whose main point of convergence was on removing Netanyahu from power after 12 years.

Biden is struggling to bridge a divide in his party where near-uniform support for Israel has eroded and a progressive wing wants the US to do more to end Israel's occupation of lands the Palestinians want for a future state.

THE IRAN TEST

A key test for both countries will be on Iran. Biden has sought to return to the Iran nuclear deal that Obama saw as a signature foreign policy achievement. Trump withdrew from the pact to cheers from pro-Israel US lawmakers and Israel. The new Israeli govt remains opposed to Biden's efforts to resurrect the deal. But it says it will discuss the issue behind closed doors.

Iran Prez Ebrahim Raisi

ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

Resolving differences over Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be another significant challenge for Biden and Bennett. Biden has moved to reverse Netanyahu-backed Trump policies that alienated Palestinians and caused a near total rupture in US-Palestinian contacts. Yet, neither Biden nor US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has signalled any move to alter Trump's most significant pro-Israel steps.

REPORT: AP

WORLD POWERS MUST 'WAKE UP' ON IRAN NUKE DEAL: ISRAELI PM

Naftali Bennett condemns new Iran prez Ebrahim Raisi, says he is the hangman of Tehran

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Sunday opened his first Cabinet meeting since swearing in his new coalition government last week with a condemnation of the new Iranian president. He said Iran's presidential election was a sign for world powers to 'wake up' before returning to a nuclear agreement with Tehran.

Iran's hard-line judiciary chief, Ebrahim Raisi, was elected Saturday with 62% of the vote amid a historically low voter turnout. He is sanctioned by the US in part over his involvement in the mass execution of thousands of political prisoners in 1988, at the end of the Iran-Iraq war. Raisi has not commented specifically on the event. At the Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Bennett said, "Of all the people that (Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali) Khamenei could have chosen, he chose the hangman of Tehran,

Israeli PM Naftali Bennett, centre, chairs the first weekly cabinet meeting of the new government in Jerusalem on Sunday | AP/PTI

the man infamous among Iranians and across the world for leading the death committees that executed thousands of innocent Iranian citizens throughout the years."

Iran and world powers resumed indirect talks in Vienna on Sunday to resurrect Tehran's tattered 2015 nuclear deal, which granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. For weeks, Iranian and American diplomats have been negotiating a return to the accord in the Austrian capital through European intermediaries.

Sunday's talks are the first since the election of Raisi, which will put hard-liners firmly in control across Iran's government.

The landmark nuclear deal between world powers and Iran, which Israel opposed, collapsed after President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from the accord in 2018.

That decision has seen Iran, over time, abandon every limitation on enrichment and Tehran is currently enriching uranium at its highest levels ever, though still short of weapons-grade levels. Bennett said Raisi's election as Iranian president was 'the last chance for the world powers to wake up before returning to the nuclear agreement and to understand who they're doing business with. "These guys are murderers, mass murderers: a regime of brutal hangmen must never be allowed to have weapons of mass destruction that will enable it to not kill thousands, but millions," he said.

Israel has long stated that it opposes arch-enemy Iran's nuclear program and said it would prevent Tehran from obtaining nuclear weapons. Iran insists its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes. *AP*

France elects regional leaders, readies for prez vote

PARIS

MARINE Le Pen's far-right party is riding high on her tough-on-security, stop-immigration message as French voters started choosing regional leaders on Sunday in an election that many see as a rehearsal for next year's presidential vote.

President Emmanuel Macron's young centrist party is expected to fare poorly in Sunday's first-round of regional elections, lacking a strong local political base and suffering from frustration at his government's handling of the pandemic.

Many polling stations stood largely empty as voting kicked off in community centres from Marseille on the Mediterranean coast to Le Touquet on the English Channel. The polls for leadership councils of France's 13 regions are primarily about local issues like transportation, schools and infrastructure. *AP*

Pope backs Myanmar bishops' appeal to aid displaced, hungry

VATICAN CITY

POPE Francis on Sunday threw his weight behind an appeal from bishops in Myanmar to the nation's military leaders to allow aid to reach thousands of displaced people dying of hunger.

"I join my voice to that of the Bishops of Myanmar, who last week launched an appeal calling the entire world's attention to the heartrending experience of thousands of people in that country who are displaced and have been dying of hunger," the pontiff said in his Angelus prayer. "We implore with all courtesy that humanitarian corridors be permitted and that churches, pagodas, monasteries, mosques, temples, as well as schools and hospitals be respected as neutral places of refuge," he said, quoting the bishops.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy government in a February 1 coup. A brutal crackdown on dissent by the junta has since killed at least 870 civilians, according to a local monitoring group.

The junta has faced a number of appeals to allow safe passage for humanitarian aid. The World Food Programme estimates within the next 6 months, 3.4 million more people will go hungry in Myanmar. *AFP*

Protesters demand prez's ouster as Brazil's Covid toll crosses 5L

RIO DE JANIERO

ANTI-GOVERNMENT protesters took to the streets in more than a score of cities across Brazil on Saturday as the nation's confirmed death toll from Covid soared past half a million — a tragedy many critics blame on President Jair Bolsonaro's attempt to minimise the disease.

Thousands gathered in downtown Rio de Janeiro waving flags with slogans such as 'Get out Bolsonaro. Government of hunger and unemployment.' "Brazil is experiencing a great setback. The country was an exemplary country for vaccination in the world. We have widely recognized institutions, but today we are in a sad situation," said Isabela Goulor, a 20-year-old student who joined the protest in Rio. Other marchers hoisted posters reading: "500 thousand deaths. It's his fault," alluding to Bolsonaro.

Similar marches took place in at least 22 or Brazil's 26 states, as well as in the Federal District, Brasilia. They were promoted by left-wing opposition parties who have been heartened by Bolsonaro's declining poll ratings with next year's presidential race looming. "Get out Bolsonaro, genocidal," yelled Rio demonstrators, some of them wearing t-shirts or masks with the image of former leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva who leads Bolsonaro in some polls. In Sao Paulo, protesters dropped red balloons as a tribute to the victims of the virus. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client has negotiated and has entered in to an agreement for the purchase of Schedule Property from It's owner SRI. SUBHASH KRISHNAJI KULKARNI. Persons having any claims in respect of the Schedule Property or Objections to it's sale, are requested to lodge their claims/objections if any before the undersigned within 15 days in writing or otherwise sale will be completed presuming that the schedule property is free from any claims.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No. 25, Assessment No. 32/3A, Khatha No. 155, situated at Sampigehalli Village, Yalahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Yalahanka Taluk measuring East to West 40 Feet, North to South 30 Feet Totally measuring 1200 Square Feet and bounded East by: Site No. 14, West by: Road, North by: Site No. 24, South by: Site No. 26.

M.P. BASAVARAJU, Advocate, No. 21, 2nd Cross, Suryodaya Layout, Dr. SRK Nagara post, Bengaluru-560 077 Contact No. :9343080909

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public are hereby notified that my client Smt.C.Gowramma W/o Sri.K.Munivenkatareddy, have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule Property from its present owner-Smt.Muninarayanamma W/o Late C.M.Krishnappa and her children; If any person/s having any objections/claims, they may raise the same along with documentary evidence before the under mentioned within 10 days from the date of publication of this Notice, failing which my clients will proceed with the transaction treating as there are no claim/s whatsoever to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing New Sy.No.23, old Sy.No.1, admeasuring 2 (two) acres, situated at Dabbagunte Village, Jadigenahalli Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is bounded on:

East by :Land in Sy.No.71/1 and 72/1 belongs to Munirathnamma of Chikkanallaala Village;
West by :Land in Sy.No.1 belongs to Dasappa;
North by :Road (20 feet Width Road reserved by the vendor in Sy.No.25) and Land of Venkateshappa;
South by:Land in Sy.No.22 belongs to Munegowda and Narayanaswamy;

Sd/- **H.R. Manjunatha**, Advocate, No.43/13, I floor, 13th main, Srinagar, Bangalore-560 050. Mob: 9980740085 e-mail: hrm_advocate@yahoo.com

QuoteExpress

IT ALWAYS SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE

NELSON MANDELA

THE KARUR VYSYA BANK LTD

DIVISIONAL OFFICE, No.6, 2nd Floor, Sajjan Rao Circle, V V Puram Bangalore – 560 004

DEMAND NOTICE

Reg: Notice issued under Sec 13 [2] of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 [SARFAESI Act] for recovery of dues in the loan a/c of **Mr. Naveen E;** sent to the below mentioned:

(1) Naveen E S/o. Eshwarachar P Residing at "Sunshine Villa", 1st Cross, Rakshnapuram, Hassan – 573 201 **(2) Mr. Poojith K G** S/o. Gangadhar K R Residing at "Sri Basaweshwar Nilaya", 2nd floor, 5th Cross, Ashok Nagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bangalore – 560 050 **(3) Mrs. Vindya E** W/o. Poojith K G Residing at "Sri Basaweshwar Nilaya", 2nd Floor, 5th Cross, Ashok Nagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, Bangalore – 560 050

Whereas you have committed default in repayment of loans in the above mentioned loan account to the secured creditor bank, the Bank had issued notice under the SARFAESI Act on **03.06.2021** calling upon you to repay the outstanding amount of **Rs. 42,39,417.48** (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventeen and paise Forty Eight only). A copy of the notice is also affixed at the Flat No. TF 312, Block A, " Elegent Embassy", Uttarahalli Village Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore.

Whereas the notices sent to No. 01, 02 and 03 of you by Regd. Post/Courier have been returned unserved. You are hereby called upon to visit the bank and obtain copy of the notice in your own interest in order to note the full particulars of the loan dues, securities charged to the bank etc.

You are hereby called upon to pay the amount as shown above together with interest from **04.06.2021** till date of payment within 60 days from the date of the notice failing which, the secured creditor Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of the secured assets hypothecated/ mortgaged to the bank as mentioned below, as per the provisions of SARFAESI Act.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SECURED ASSETS:

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential Apartment/Flat No. TF – 312, Block A on site bearing BBMP Katha No. 1854/639/115, Old No. 115, Property Register No. 1854, residentially converted Survey No. 115/1, Old No. 115, "Elegent Embassy", Unit No. TF-312, Third Floor Block A with super built-up area of 1306 sq feet and 291 sq feet of UDS situated at Uttarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore

Date : 19.06.2021
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

Public Notice

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of NAVABHARATH SENA. The office of the part is located at No. 14/15, Chamundeshwari Building, 3rd cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bangalore - 560018. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political party under Sec 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names of the office bearers of the party is as follows:

President: Sri S. Rukmangada
37/3, 7th Cross, Azad Nagar, Chamarajapet, Bangalore -18
Vice President: K.C.Raghavendra Rao
Sri Dhanvantari Ganapati Devasthana, in front of Victoria Hospital, K.R.Road, Bangalore - 02.
General Secretary: Sri Narayana Swamy
Bylahalli, Chintamani, Chikballapura - 563128
Treasurer: Smt. Girija Ganesh
No. 225, 3rd Main, 6th Cross, Srinivasa Nagar, BSK, Bangalore - 50

If any one has any objection to the registration of NAVABHARATH SENA, that may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001, within 30 days of the publication of this Notice.

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DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s) /Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Tulasinathan R, Mr. Gowrishankar T, Mrs. Savitha T **(Prospect No. 937044)**	**15-June-2021 Rs. 28,12,999/-** (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Nine Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Western Portion, admeasuring 55.78 sq. mtrs. , Site No.353, Khatha No.43, Assessment No.42 And 43, Laggere Village,Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Banglore, Pincode: 560022, Karnataka, India
Mr. Savai Singh, Mrs.Chhelakanvar **(Prospect No. 822935)**	**15-June-2021 Rs. 4,57,249/-** (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty Nine Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Plot No 10 Katha No 175/10, Sy.No.63/3 Situated At Kalyapura Village, Jangamkote Hobli, Sidlaghatta Taluk Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru, Pincode:562105, Karnataka, India
Mrs. M S Mamatha, Mr.Jagadish KB **(Prospect No. 910384)**	**15-June-2021 Rs. 11,11,854.00/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Four Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : E-Property No.152100200700120239, admeasuring 1063 Sq feet, Survey No.479/25, and Janger No.1395, Khata No.1185, Kappa Village, Maddur Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office : IIFL HFL "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025 and #2220, M S S Complex, 1st Floor, 100ft Road, Karnataka Bar Circle,Above Releance Fresh Building,Mandya-571401/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore and Mandya Date: 21.06.2021

Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd

Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited

Regd office: 27BKC, C 27, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai – 400 051
Corporate office: Kotak Infiniti, Bldg No 21, Infinity Park, General AK Vaidya Marg, Malad (E), Mumbai – 400 097 www.kotak.com

AUCTION - NOTICE

That the below mentioned Borrower/s had availed gold loan facility against security of the gold ornaments/ items, as specified below. The Borrower/s defaulted in due repayment of the instalments and outstanding dues and as a result of which the Bank was constrained to issue notices calling upon the Borrower/s to repay the outstanding amounts. However, the Borrower/s has failed to repay/clear his outstanding dues thereby compelling the Bank to auction the gold ornaments pledged in favour of the Bank.

The auction of the below mentioned gold ornaments would be held at :- Respective Branches

Date: 29.06.2021 Time: 11.00 AM

Apac	Account No	Borrower Name	State	Location	Branch	Gr. wt (Gms)
GLN1692502	GLN1692502	Mohammed Shariq Shamsi	Karnataka	Bangalore	AVENUEROAD	33.10
GLN1845587	GLN1845587	K L Venkateswarlu	Karnataka	Bangalore	AVENUEROAD	273.74
GLN1851104	GLN1851104	Prashanth .	Karnataka	Bangalore	BASAVSWRNR	40.13
GLN1778878	GLN1778878	Rajashekar B C	Karnataka	Bangalore	BASAVSWRNR	71.39
GLN1843831	GLN1843831	Manjunath M M	Karnataka	Bangalore	BASAVSWRNR	32.29
GLN1913100	GLN1913100	Amuda N	Karnataka	Bangalore	BASAVSWRNR	96.44
GLN1597203	GLN1597203	R Prasanna	Karnataka	Bangalore	BOMMANAHA	141.10
GLN1638477	GLN1638477	S Subash Chander	Karnataka	Bangalore	FRAZERTOW	41.71
GLN1854835	GLN1854835	S Subash Chander	Karnataka	Bangalore	FRAZERTOW	128.36
GLN1891890	GLN1891890	Sartaj Ali	Karnataka	Bangalore	FRAZERTOW	119.52
GLN1822888	GLN1822888	Rasmitha Dash	Karnataka	Bangalore	JPNGR2	218.49
GLN1802319	GLN1802319	Ajay Srinivas Royal	Karnataka	Bangalore	JPNGR2	64.68
GLN1843788	GLN1843788	N Ashok Kumar	Karnataka	Bangalore	KAMNHALI	74.83
GLN1844548	GLN1844548	Rajat Kumar Nag	Karnataka	Bangalore	KAMNHALI	19.99
GLN1861091	GLN1861091	Sujan Khan	Karnataka	Bangalore	KAMNHALI	16.13
GLN1865080	GLN1865080	Aruna V S	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	141.35
GLN1789963	GLN1789963	Aruna V S	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	178.22
GLN1821631	GLN1821631	Aruna V S	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	86.77
GLN1709808	GLN1709808	Shreedhar V Hegde	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	19.07
GLN1860202	GLN1860202	Ravi Kumar T	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	26.66
GLN1760058	GLN1760058	Aadil Ahmad Jan	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	204.65
GLN1579740	GLN1579740	Mohamed Riyaz Ahamed	Karnataka	Bangalore	MALESWARA	26.43
GLN1885236	GLN1885236	Praveen Kumar V	Karnataka	Bangalore	SADASHIVA	7.91
GLN1920297	GLN1920297	Sadiq Pasha	Karnataka	Bangalore	THIPASANDR	81.00
GLN1879999	GLN1879999	S Naveen	Karnataka	Bangalore	THIPASANDR	168.20
GLN1760154	GLN1760154	Bharat Lalwani	Karnataka	Bangalore	VIJAYANAGA	293.50
GLN1759892	GLN1759892	Bharat Lalwani	Karnataka	Bangalore	VIJAYANAGA	210.03
GLN1762528	GLN1762528	Bharat Lalwani	Karnataka	Bangalore	VIJAYANAGA	186.27

Bidders are requested to Submit a copy of their Photo – identity, signature and address proof along with their original for verification together with two recent photographs on the day of auction. The Bank reserves the right to change the venue/date/time of auction or cancel the auction without any notice to bidders.

The cost of the auction process will be debited to the customer account. Bank reserves the right to recover the balance amount from the customer if the bid amount is insufficient to meet the payoff amount of the account.

For any further details regarding the terms and conditions of the auction, you are required to contact the below mentioned person/s.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Ph - 8197072323

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

AFFIDAVIT

I, **C. Munikrishna** S/o. Chikkayallappa, Aged about 47 years, R/at No. 35, Naganayakanahalli Village, Marsuru Post, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 562 106, hereby declare that my correct name is **C. Munikrishna** but in my Provident Fund bears my name is wrongly mentioned as **Muniraj**. Vide affidavit dated 19.06.2021 sworn before Advocate & Notary C.N. Sreekanta Sastry, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANU Daughter of Rulda Ram, Resident of SMQ 27/04, Gagan Vihar Air Force Campus, Murgeshpalya, Bangalore - 17 have changed my name from **ANU** to **ANU BINZY** vide affidavit dated 17.06.2021 before A.R Muneer Ahmed Bangalore Metropolitan Area Regd. 4932

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) KEERTHANA D/o RANGANATH PRABHAKAR Residing at No. 02, 4th Cross, 30th Main Tankshore Road, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 076 have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) KEERTHANA** to **(NEW NAME) KEERTHANA PRABHAKAR** vide affidavit dated 23.04.2021 sworn beforeNotaryC.NBalasubramanyam, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) RESHMA NAIR D/o Radhakrishnan Nair, Residing at No. 688, 6th Main, Chamundeshwari Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560 097 have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) RESHMA NAIR** to **(NEW NAME) RESHMA R NAIR** vide affidavit dated 18.06.2021 sworn before notary B.S Padmaprasad, Bangalore.

₹13,667 cr is the amount of cash inflow into India from foreign portfolio investors so far in the month of June. But, FPIs withdrew money from Indian markets this week

PERFORMANCE OF RECENT IPOs

Soma Comstar
- Issue size: ₹5,550-crore
- Status: Subscribed 2.28 times

Shyam Metalics and Energy
- Issue size: ₹909 crore
- Status: Subscribed 121.4 times

Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences
- Issue size: ₹2,144 crore
- Status: Subscribed 3.9 times

Dodla Dairy
- Issue size: ₹520 crore
- Status: Subscribed 46 times

BIG IPOs ON THE WAY
- Zomato
- PolicyBazaar
- Pharmeasy
- Paytm

SURFING THE IPO WAVE? WEAR A LIFE VEST

Make sure to check promoter background, IPO goals, company finances & valuation

ARSHAD KHAN @New Delhi

AFTER a temporary break caused by the second Covid-19 wave, initial public offerings (IPO) are back—and this time they are getting much bigger. An IPO is a process through which privately owned companies raise funds by selling shares to the public by listing on the stock markets. In the last week alone, four entities have issued IPOs to raise a cumulative ₹9,132 crore, and all of them were oversubscribed. Shyam Metalics and Energy was subscribed by 121 times and Dodla Dairy by 46 times.

The buzz in market circles is that around three dozen private firms are expected to go public this financial year FY22, up from 29 in FY21. This FY may also see big ticket listings from firms such as Zomato, Paytm, PolicyBazaar, and Pharmeasy, and a mega IPO from the country's largest insurer—Life Insurance Corporation.

So, why's there a rush? Experts say that the record rise in the number of retail investors (over 1 crore demat accounts were opened in one year) and the current bull run of the equity market has made a perfect setting. India's equity market (Sensex) rose over 100 per cent from its March 23, 2020 levels to over 52,800 last week.

As for investors, returns for IPOs have been largely positive. According to RBI's Annual Report, the financial year 2020-21 has turned out to be extraordinary for IPOs with 21 out of the 29 generating positive returns for investors on listing.

Siddharth Khemka, Head of Retail Research, Motilal Oswal Group, said that with rising interest in midcaps and smallcaps, investors were on the look-out for new ideas to invest in and these IPOs provided them the opportunity. In addition, with interest rates being very low, and the grey market premium running high, IPOs also provided a lucrative opportunity for retail investors to participate, he added.

But if you are planning to try your luck in making money from the buzz created around new listings, you should keep in mind the following points:

Evaluating associated Risk

Investing in IPOs doesn't mean a guaranteed return. It comes with its own sets of risk and, at times, investors have incurred huge losses. Some IPOs are also overhyped by corporates and, in most cases, it is difficult to get hold of a private company's documents and balance sheet.

"One must understand the business model of the company and evaluate what moat the company enjoys. Companies present in an already crowded space are not getting a lot, unless and until it has a specific moat," Khemka says.

The factors that you should be looking at while evaluating IPOs are industry prospects, promoter background, objective of the IPO, financials, valuation and threats faced by the company. Don't fall for only the buzz around an IPO, and end up investing in an overpriced issue.

As for approaching big ticket IPOs of tech firms that have never reported a profit, Gaurav Garg, Head of Research, CapitalVia Global Research, says, "It is very important to evaluate whether the losses are increasing in proportion to the revenue or whether revenue is outpacing the losses. Also, whether the companies enjoy dominance to the extent that they will be able to tactfully monetize in a way that they become profitable and demand remains inelastic." It has to be noted that e-commerce giant Amazon had reported continuous loss-making years before turning profitable. However, we have also seen giants like Uber and Lyft eroding shareholder value after going public.

Stay long term or exit early?

One big decision that investors have to make while investing in IPOs is when to exit. Khemka says that retail investors are always lured by the prospects of making quick money from the equity markets, but wealth in equity markets is made only in the long term. "We have seen in the past that despite strong listing gains (more than 100% premium to IPO price), stocks have done well over the following year if they have strong fundamentals and good business models," he said.

Yash Gupta, Equity Research Associate at Angel Broking says: "If we look at recent IPOs like Indigo Paints and MTAR Technologies, they have given listing gains of 90-100 per cent and, on the other hand, IPOs like Easy Trip Planner and Nureca have delivered more than 100 per cent returns for the long-term investors." He also expects that IPOs will remain a significant wealth creator for short term as well as long term retail investors.

Short term traders can book the listing gains depending on how the IPO opens, while long term investors can hold on if the outlook for the company is good. People should frame their exit strategy depending on risk appetite and investment horizon, advises Khemka.

One must understand the business model and evaluate what moat the company enjoys. Companies present in an already crowded space are not getting a lot. — Siddharth Khemka, Retail Research, Motilal Oswal

FY21 IPOs: PERFORMANCE SO FAR

Company Name	List Date	Issue price	Listing price	Last close price
Nazara Tech	30/03/2021	1,101	1,971	1,517.85
Kalyan Jewellers	26/03/2021	87	73.9	80.45
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	26/03/2021	305	293	223.8
Craftsman Automation	25/03/2021	1,490	1,350	1,704.15
Laxmi Organic Industries	25/03/2021	130	156.2	225.65
Anupam Rasayan India	24/03/2021	555	534.7	732.05
Easy Trip Planners	19/03/2021	187	206	385.75
MTAR Technologies	15/03/2021	575	1,063.9	990.4
Heranba Industries	05/03/2021	627	900	712.8
Railtel Corporation Of India	26/02/2021	94	104.6	144.9
Brookfield India REIT	16/02/2021	275	275.1	265
Stove Kraft	05/02/2021	385	467	561.75
Home First Finance Company India	03/02/2021	518	612.2	540.55
Indigo Paints	02/02/2021	1,490	2,607.5	2,575.25
Indian Railway Finance Corporation	29/01/2021	26	25	24.55
Antony Waste Handling Cell	01/01/2021	315	430	326
Mrs. Bectors Foods Specialities	24/12/2020	288	501	400.35
Burger King India	14/12/2020	60	115.4	157
Gland Pharma	20/11/2020	1,500	1,701	3,068.2
Equitas SFB	02/11/2020	33	31	57.9
UTI AMC	12/10/2020	554	490.3	778.65
Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders	12/10/2020	145	216.3	253.6
Angel Broking	05/10/2020	306	275	808.7
Computer Age Management Services	01/10/2020	1,230	1,518	2,779
Chemcon Speciality Chemicals	01/10/2020	340	731	460.75
Route Mobile	21/09/2020	350	708	1,690.3
Happiest Minds Technologies	17/09/2020	166	351	899.85
Mindspace Business Parks REIT	07/08/2020	275	304	283.85
Rossari Biotech	23/07/2020	425	670	1,217.5

All prices in rupees. Last close price is as of Friday, June 18, 2021. Source: BSE

'Balancing it out' is a key skill for investors

RAJAS KELKAR

MONEY does not talk. It screams. When Bob Dylan said that, it was probably a reflection of the times. You can safely assume that it had nothing to do with personal finance.

But you can reinterpret that for your relationship with your money. No matter the stage of your life. There are questions and answers that you are seeking for issues that have something to do with money.

Investing is not about just moving in one direction or doing something just once. It is also telling yourself to anticipate more crossroads where you must make hard choices to shepherd your money. Our lives are always full of situations where we have to do a tight rope walk. 'Balancing it out' is a skill useful on this long journey.

To move anywhere in the wonderland of investments, you need to get to the centre of things first. Your data points are your friends. They guide you to your first steps when the environment around you may not make any sense.

Share prices are at a record high, but the headline numbers show a weak economic growth ahead. The inflation rate is raising its head, so that could spook passive investors in the stock market. Yet, stock market analysts continue to remain bullish on the bounce back in economic activity and profit growth for businesses.

To add to that, foreign portfolio investors continue to fancy Indian shares. There is also a lot of private equity money flowing into companies that are not even publicly traded.

Personal finance is more about your mindset and less about anything else. The key to success in investing is in being humble about your abilities. American behavioural finance expert and psychologist Daniel Crosby writes in his book, 'The Laws of Wealth', that you must accept that managing money needs teamwork. You cannot do it alone.

It is near impossible for you to know it all. Even if you do, you cannot be right all the time. You have to start looking at investing and managing your money as teamwork—the first step in that effort to engage a professional advisor. Crosby cites the results of a survey done in the US by Vanguard, a firm that oversees $3.3 trillion in assets. Those using a professional advisor end up getting an average 2-3 per cent higher return than other investors.

Your money matters are not just about the money you invest. They are also about the way you manage your income and expenditure. The humility factor comes into play here. An ability to learn from mistakes helps. You need to train your minds to save whenever you can and spend and invest in a disciplined manner.

What does it mean

Striking a balance does not mean merely investing in a balanced mutual fund. A lot of marketing effort gets underway where financial services companies tell you that. They suggest that defence is investing in fixed income securities and attack is investing in equities. However, money affairs are more than just deploying the money in asset classes. The game is first played in your mind.

Your resolve to save money and discipline to invest regularly is the only way you can create wealth. You can own multiple asset classes directly or through mutual funds. Bit by bit, you need to build resilience to market volatility and ride through cycles. Staying dispassionate about investments is a way to go.

You have to monitor the performance of your investments regularly. If you notice any underperformance, you must make necessary changes. You must know what works for you and your goals. Your financial advisor may help you up to a point. However, it would help if you equip yourself with the necessary knowledge.

Your spending is the loose end in all of this planning. The way you tell yourself to curb impulse spending mattersa lot. But, saving and investing does not mean giving up on good things in life. It means working for them. You can shepherd your habits towards your spending goals. That is a positive way of looking at spending.

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

SOUMYADIP SINHA

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

COAL INDIA
Current Price ₹146.55
Target Price ₹180

With improving offtake and realizations, we see a sharp operating leverage coming into play. Notwithstanding any further negative shocks, we expect COAL's profitability to recover in FY22 (+29% YoY). Recovery in demand and funds from the Atmanirbhar scheme should help.

— Motilal Oswal Securities Limited

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*.

MONEY-WISE

Google Maps & your Financial Map

P V SUBRAMANYAM

WHEN I landed in Chandigarh to go to a place called Jibhi (Himachal Pradesh), I got into a taxi and looked at Google Maps. I needed to know how much time I would take to reach. It said I would reach at 21.18 hours. Well, I got into the taxi—and I knew it was going to be a beautiful journey of 7 hours and 18 minutes.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹ 40 a day'

Google Maps knew the route, the amount of traffic, etc. What it did not know was the speed at which the driver would drive, and the breaks that we would take during the journey. When you go to a Financial Planner and tell her about your goals, she tells you that if you invest ₹8,000 a month for the next 36 years, you will have a corpus of ₹8 crore and you can retire in the year 2057.

Your planner does not know whether YOU will contribute regularly for the next 36 years. Your planner does not know what is the rate of return that the market will give (the speed at which you will drive).

We took a break, had lunch, stopped for tea, and reached at 22.25 hours. Not too bad, right?

Google could not have anticipated the traffic on the road, the sudden deterioration of the roads, traffic jams, the driver driving too slowly, me taking a 3-hour lunch break, right? Similarly when your planner tells you an 8k contribution and ₹8 crore corpus, it is an estimate—an approximation. Many things could go right or wrong in the Financial Journey. You could take a 3-year break, you may get one sensational 60 per cent return on your portfolio during one of those years. You could lose dramatically (1993), you may get scared and change your asset allocations.

She has no clue about YOUR behaviour, or about the behaviour of the market. Yet, we still use Google Maps, do we not? Yesterday (Sunday) on the journey from Jibhi to Chandigarh, we started the journey at 5 am. Again Google Maps told us we will reach at 13.30 hours—an about 8 and a half hour journey. We travelled real fast during the first leg of the journey—good driver, but no traffic. Google Maps now revised the time to 12.57 hours based on the journey so far. We then took a break for breakfast and decided to have lunch at Chandigarh. Suddenly, Google Maps went to predicting 14.35 hours. We actually reached at 14.27 hours.

Did I think Google Maps was wrong? Did I think it was inaccurate?

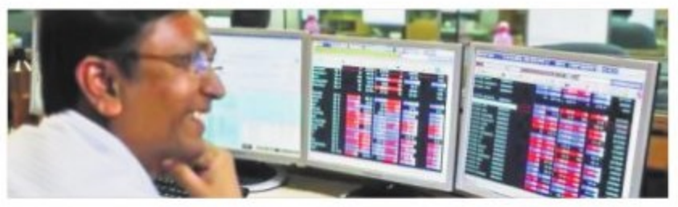
No. Of course not. I knew that Google was ONLY giving us a road map and guiding us during the journey. We did not err by taking a wrong turn or going in the wrong turn. Google Maps did not know the length of our breaks. It, of course, could not have predicted fresh traffic jams. We could have had a flat tyre (unplanned break) or a 2-hour breakfast break (partially unplanned).

This is exactly why we make a financial plan—a map. It gives us a sense of direction, assumed speed, etc. At the end of 36 years whether we reach ₹8 crore, or reach it in 28 years or 42 years, is something we can't predict now.

However, we still need a map to keep us on course.

Global cues to shape Indian markets this week

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi



WITH no major domestic event lined up for this week, India's equity market will most likely be shaped by global factors, analysts said, adding that they expect benchmark indices to remain range bound in the near future.

Last week, Indian markets broke their four-week gaining streak as global markets were surprised by the US Federal Reserve's signal of a rate hike by early next year. That impacted investor sentiments worldwide and resulted in the dollar index jumping to a two-month high. The Sensex fell 130.31 points to 52,344.45, and Nifty50 declined 116 points to 15,683.35 during the week.

"Markets are likely to spend some more time in a range and we expect volatility to remain high due to the scheduled derivatives expiry of June month contracts. With no major event, participants will be closely eyeing the global markets for cues. Besides, the progress of monsoon and updates on the vaccination drive will also be in focus," said Ajit Mishra, VP Research, Religare Broking.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services in a note said that domestic market may consolidate for some time before resuming its rally. "Technically too, the trend remains intact for an up move towards 16,000-mark. Globally, investors would cautiously track what action other central banks take following Fed's hawkish announcement," it said.

Shrikant Chouhan, Executive Vice President, Equity Technical Research at Kotak Securities, said, "Going forward, Indian Markets would keep an eye on US economic recovery and signals from the Fed, global commodity prices, new Covid cases and the pace of vaccination in India, unlock measures by various states, GST collections, monsoon development Pan India, and consistency of reforms from the Central Government."

Markets rangebound
- US Fed's hawkish signalling with regard to rates last week saw Indian markets breaking 4-week gaining streak
- Going forward, Indian markets are likely to continue to take cues from the actions of other countries' central banks this week

Headded, that the 15400/51800 (Nifty/Sensex) should be the sacrosanct level for the bulls, and as long as its trading above the same, the uptrend is likely to continue up to 15800-15900/52600-52850 levels. "Further upside may also continue which could lift the index till 16050-16130/ 53100-53300. On the flip side, below 15400/51800, uptrend would be vulnerable," he said.

EXPRESS READ

Pressure on insurers' profits

New Delhi: The domestic life insurance industry may see pressure on its profitability in the short-term as the coronavirus pandemic has cast doubt on the certainty related to morbidity and mortality in the country, ICICI Prudential Life said in its annual report. The industry grew 3 per cent in FY21.

Authum top bidder for RHF

New Delhi: Authum Investment and Infrastructure Ltd has emerged as the highest bidder for Reliance Home Finance, owned by Anil Ambani's Reliance Group, with a ₹2,900 crore offer, PTI reported. lenders led by Bank of Baroda would receive ₹2,587 crore upfront and remaining within a year.

Clarification

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) has not made any recommendation to the Centre to take a political call on cutting fuel tax. This was clarified by K Rajeswara Rao, Principal Adviser, EAC-PM, in response to a report published in these columns on June 19, titled 'Slash oil tax, says worried committee advising PM'. However, a member of the panel confirmed to our reporter that the matter was indeed discussed at one of its recent meetings, during which a few members expressed concern at the spill-over impact of high fuel prices dampening economic recovery. - Editor

Women's recurve team fails to qualify for Tokyo Olympics

The Indian women's recurve team failed to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics after a tame loss to Colombia in the Final Qualifier in Paris on Sunday. It was the last opportunity for the Indians to upgrade their single women's quota place but they failed to make it. Deepika Kumari will now be the sole entry in the women's section in Tokyo.

ONLY SPAIN NO GAIN

Enrique's boys have 77% possession but manage only 1-1 draw against Poland; face must-win game against Slovakia next

Spain striker Alvaro Morata's shot (L) is saved by Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny in Seville on Saturday | AFP

AFP @ Seville

NINE years after winning their third major tournament in a row, Spain are struggling to qualify for the knockout stage of Euro 2020 after drawing their first two group matches. They enjoyed a lot of possession against Poland, but their passing game is not fetching victories.

Coach Luis Enrique said if Saturday's 1-1 draw with Poland had been a boxing match, his team would have won on points but his team looked like they were on the ropes and lacking a knockout punch. After starting with a stalemate against Sweden last week, Spain now sit third in Group E and need to beat Slovakia on Wednesday to guarantee qualification for the last 16. Placed in a group that appeared one of the kindest, failing to reach the next round would be a humiliation for Spain.

Wales advance along with Italy; Swiss made to wait

Wales qualified for the last 16 as runners-up of Group A despite a 1-0 loss to Italy on Sunday, while Switzerland must wait to see if they go through after beating Turkey 3-1. Matteo Pessina's goal means Italy will play the runner-up from Group C in the next round, with Wales facing the second team in Group B. Switzerland could progress as one of the four best third-placed teams.

UEFA EURO2020

Ukraine, Austria battle for last-16 entry

GROUP C

UKRAINE VS AUSTRIA | Bucharest | 9.30pm

The winner of this contest will confirm their berth in knockouts. Both teams are placed on three points. The team that is defeated may have to rely on being one of the four best third-placed teams to advance to the last 16.

Key players: Andriy Yarmolenko (Ukraine), Marcel Sabitzer (Austria)

NETHERLANDS VS NORTH MACEDONIA | Amsterdam | 9.30pm

Should be a straightforward encounter for Netherlands as they look to finish with a perfect record in group stage. They have notched up comfortable wins over Ukraine and Austria so far.

Key players: Memphis Depay (Netherlands), Goran Pandev (North Macedonia)

WHERE THEY STAND...

GROUP E

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GD	P
SWE	2	1	1	0	1	4
SLO	2	1	0	1	0	3
ESP	2	0	2	0	0	2
POL	2	0	1	1	-1	1

GROUP A

TEAM	M	W	D	L	GD	P
ITA	3	3	0	0	7	9
WAL	3	1	1	1	1	4
SWI	3	1	1	1	-1	4
TUR	3	0	0	3	-7	0

UPDATED TILL SPAIN VS POLAND MATCH

RESULTS | Saturday: Spain 1-1 Poland; Sunday: Italy 1-0 Wales, Switzerland 3-1 Turkey

RUSSIA VS DENMARK | Copenhagen | 12.30am

The Russians should be able to get all three points and progress further against a Denmark side seemingly affected by the absence of Christian Eriksen. Danes played well against Belgium, it is the 0-1 loss to Finland that has hurt their chances.

Key players: Aleksei Miranchuk (Russia), Kasper Schmeichel (Denmark)

GROUP B

FINLAND VS BELGIUM | Saint Petersburg | 12.30am

The Belgians have match winners through their line-up and should be able to overpower Finland in the final group game. The return of Kevin de Bruyne from injury has strengthened them further, as illustrated during their game against Denmark.

Key players: Teemu Pukki (Finland), Kevin de Bruyne (Belgium)

WORLD TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

New Zealand go for Kyle, India stutter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

THESE are still early days, but going by what unfolded on Day 3 of the World Test Championship final, New Zealand are close to gaining an upper hand at the Rose Bowl. After Kyle Jamieson triggered an Indian collapse on Sunday to restrict them to 217, Devon Conway led the way for New Zealand with 54 to take them to 101-2 when bad light brought an early end to the day. The gloomy conditions continue to be challenging for batsmen. Other than facing a quality attack, batsmen from both teams have had to make adjustments of batting under natural light and artificial light. Add the cloud cover, which always keeps the bowlers in the hunt, this is setting up perfectly for an exciting final. That could change considerably on Monday if India don't get early wickets as the Black Caps looked more at home in these testing conditions.

The discipline that India's batting unit showed on Day 2 went missing on Day 3 and Kyle Jamieson made them pay for it. 146-3 overnight, India lost their last six wickets for just 68 runs to bowl out for 217, 50 short of a par total. India now have failed to touch 250 against New Zealand in five successive innings. On Saturday, the New Zealand bowlers were guilty of erring in line and length and allowed India to get a good start. However, on Sunday, they were on the mark from the word go. Following a delayed start, Jamieson and Trent Boult wasted no time in troubling overnight batsmen Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane. The Indian captain departed in the third over of the day without adding to his overnight score of 44 to a Jamieson ball that seamed late to trap him leg before wicket. It followed a period where the two bowled six maidens on the trot to Rahane and Rishabh Pant, who took 21 balls to get off the mark.

Scoreboard: India 1st Innings (overnight: 146-3): Kohli lbw Jamieson 44, Rahane c Latham b Wagner 49, Pant c Latham b Jamieson 4, Jadeja c Watling b Boult 15, Ashwin c Latham b Southee 22, Ishant c Taylor b Jamieson 4, Bumrah lbw Jamieson 0, Shami (not out) 4. Extras (lb3, nb2) 5, Total (all out, 92.1 ovs) 217; FOW: 1-62, 2-63, 3-88, 4-149, 5-156, 6-182, 7-205, 8-213, 9-213; Bowling: Southee 22-6-64-1; Boult 21.1-4-47-2; Jamieson 22-12-31-5; De Grandhomme 12-6-32-0; Wagner 15-5-40-2. New Zealand 1st Innings: Latham c Kohli b Ashwin 30, Conway c Shami b Ishant 54, Williamson (batting) 12, Taylor (batting) 0. Extras (lb3, nb2) 5, Total (2 wkts, 49 ovs) 101; FOW: 1-70, 2-101; Bowling: Ishant 12-4-19-1; Bumrah 11-3-34-0; Shami 11-4-19-0; Ashwin 12-5-20-1; Jadeja 3-1-6-0.

Chartered flight to Tokyo for Olympics-bound athletes, officials

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

OLYMPIC-BOUND athletes flying out of India will now leave for Tokyo in a special chartered flight organised by one of the federation's officials. This was necessary after a couple of carriers cancelled their scheduled flights. "President, secretary general and the IOA family wish to thank and express their gratitude to Ajay Singh, president, Boxing Federation of India, for agreeing to fly a special SpiceJet flight for Indian athletes and officials to Tokyo on July 17 after two airlines on June 19 cancelled their scheduled flights for July 17 & 18 in which 81 athletes and officials were booked to fly to Tokyo," the IOA said. Singh doubles up as head of the SpiceJet.

"IOA had to ensure that athletes leave on July 17 and SpiceJet supported IOA and solved the crisis," they added.

The crisis is a result of a new advisory that insist that athletes and officials travelling from India would have to observe a three-day quarantine like practice upon landing in Japan. This will allow athletes to reach Tokyo early and train after finishing the three-day physical distancing requirement rather than head into competition straightaway.

Shorter formats benefited us: Mithali

VIVEK KRISHNAN @ Chennai

OVER the last five Tests that the Indian women's team has played, the girls have registered three wins and two draws. It is a good sequence of results, isn't it? Now consider the fact that those five Tests have come over a period of 15 years, and it is simply remarkable that they have been able to step up in the longest format despite getting so few opportunities to don the whites. The latest result, a draw against England in the one-off Test, came in a game where India seemed down and out after being bundled out for 231 in the first innings and asked to follow on. But the debutants in particular – Shafali Verma and Sneh Rana deserve a special mention – rose to the occasion and helped the visitors save it.

Skipper Mithali Raj couldn't be prouder of the team's performance. While 17-year-old Shafali has rightly grabbed the plaudits for her scores of 96 and 63, the performances of the likes of Sneh, Deepti Sharma and Taniya Bhatia highlight the presence of a talent pool that should serve women's cricket for years to come. With India due to play a pink-ball Test against Australia in Perth in September, the signs are encouraging.

"The biggest learning is that there are other players who can stand up for the team and deliver when it is required. Apart from Shafali, the lower middle-order played a very crucial role. These girls have shown that even with a lack of practice with the red ball, they can stand up to perform for India," said Mithali after the game.

According to the 38-year-old, most of the youngsters in the team have been able to gain exposure by playing in overseas T20 leagues like the Women's Big Bash League in Australia. Later in the summer, Shafali, Deepti, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues are slated to play in 'The Hundred' in England.

"Over these last seven years, there have been T20 leagues in different countries like Australia and England. These young players have exposure of playing in different conditions even if it is the one-day or T20 format. When they come in for a Test now, all they have to do is tune their mindset," she explained, "And I believe that given more opportunities, the team will become even stronger. I have never felt we have lacked talent or skill."

EXPRESS READ

Uganda team member tests Covid +ve in Tokyo

Tokyo: A member of Uganda's Olympic team has tested positive for the coronavirus and was barred entry into Japan, in the first detected infection among arriving athletes for the Tokyo Games opening in five weeks. The eight other members of the team left early on Sunday by chartered bus for host town Osaka, central Japan, where Covid-19 cases are still being reported. AP

IGP-4

Focus on Tajinder, 4x100 women's relay

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

INDIAN athletes are approaching the home stretch in their quest for Olympic berth. The last two competitions before June 29 deadline for qualification are all set to give a handful of athletes their final chances to qualify. The Indian Grand Prix will be the first such meet. It will be limited to a few athletes, especially those in the national camp at the National Centre of Excellence in Patiala.

Among the several eying qualification is Tajender Pal Singh Toor, the shot-put national record holder. The strong man from Punjab had a sedate start to the season after nursing an injury in his throwing left hand. After gingerly making his return to training, he started practicing with more intensity adding load as time passed by until the Indian Grand Prix 2 where he first entered into competition. Back then, according to Tajinder and his team, it was just about working on his strength and conditioning till the Federation Cup in March before going all out for that elusive 21.10m qualification mark.

"Initially, it was not easy as I was making a comeback from injury but as days passed by, I started getting fitter and throws were getting better," said Tajinder. Missing out on competitions during April-May, when the team was supposed to go to Turkey for meets-cum-training, did not help either. From No 29 on the list of Road to Tokyo in March he has slipped precariously to No 31 and is in danger of missing out.

Tajinder and his team are keeping a close watch on the list. He believes he is primed to throw above 21m and feels he should be qualifying through the mark. "I am not looking at ranking right now. In the next meet I am confident of doing well and cross the 21.10m mark," he said. Because of the heat, training has either been in the morning or after 6.00 pm. There are five people who will take part in shot put.

Long jumper Murali Shreeshankar and some other top athletes have reached Patiala two-three days ago and were in quarantine. For Shreeshankar, who has already qualified for the Olympics, this would be just another competition. "I am looking for a decent jump and with Olympics just a few days away, I will not exert myself too much," he said.

The women's 4x400m is not part of IGP-4 but the 400m women's entry list is interesting. Jisna Mathew is competing in her first meet of the season. Top quarter-milers VK Vismaya, MR Poovamma and Revathi V are also listed but Anjali is still not there. All eyes will also be on javelin thrower Annu Rani, who is comfortably placed at No 19 in road to Tokyo but has not attained the qualification standard. In men's javelin, Shivpal Singh is missing but Rohit Yadav's name is entered. The women's 4x100m relay, comprising the likes of Dutee Chand, Hima Das, Archana Suseendran and Dhanalakshmi, will be looking to finish among top-16 in Road to Tokyo (they are 22).

Chhetri signs new two-year deal with Bengaluru FC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

SUNIL Chhetri's journey with Bengaluru FC, which started in 2013, is set to continue with the forward putting pen to paper on a new two-year deal. This contract, which will keep him at the club till 2023 at the least does not come as a big surprise considering how the 36-year-old has been a central figure to the club's success.

He helped the club win a number of titles, including the Indian Super League in 2018-19. In his 203 appearances for the club, he has scored 101 goals and has topped the goal-scoring charts in each of his eight seasons with the Blues.

"I'm really happy to have signed on for two more years at Bengaluru FC. The city is home now, and the people at this club are like family to me. It feels like just yesterday that I signed for the first time here, and I have to say the journey has been nothing short of special. I love this club, the supporters and the city, all three of which I have a strong bond with, and I'm looking forward to being part of many more great moments with them," said Chhetri.

COPA AMERICA

Argentina, currently joint-toppers in Group B, face Paraguay test while Uruguay seek first win against Chile.

(Tuesday IST): Uruguay vs Chile (2.30am), Argentina vs Paraguay (5.30am)

LIVE ON SONY PICTURES NETWORK

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office, "MESCOM Bhavana", Kavoor Cross Road, P.B.No.1130, Mangaluru - 575 004.

Dear Consumers,

Redressal of your complaints made easier and more consumer-friendly...

- KERC has formulated Regulation known as Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (Consumer Grievance Redressal Forum and Ombudsman) Regulations 2004 and made amendments to redress the complaints / grievances of the electricity consumers of the State of Karnataka.
- MESCOM has established the following Consumer Grievance Redressal Forums (CGRF) in each Revenue District :

Name of the Revenue Districts, Chairpersons, Members and Forum Headquarters with contact detail where Consumers can lodge Complaint / Grievances, is as below:

Name of the Revenue District	Chairperson of the Forum	Member nominated by MESCOM	Name of the Member nominated by KERC	Forum's Headquarter
Dakshina Kannada	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Bondel, Mangaluru. Mob : 9448289427	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Bondel, Mangaluru. Mob: 9448289572	Sri Ramchandra Prabhu.M, S/o Vittappa Prabhu.M, M.Boomika, No.4-934/1, Behind PC Pai Petrol Pump, Darbe, Puttur - 574 201.	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, "Shakti Soudha" Airport Road Bondel, P.B.No. 240, Mangaluru. . Telephone No. 0824-2444915
Udupi	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, MESCOM, Kunjibettu, Udupi. Mob : 9448289407	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, MESCOM, Kunjibettu, Udupi. Mob: 9480833039	Sri. H. Shantharaj Aithal, "Laxmi Nilaya", Ananda Rao Road, Ambalpady Udupi - 575 103	O/o.Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, Near MGM Ground, Kunjibettu, P.B.No. 01, Udupi. Telephone No. 0820-2525040
Shimogga	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Near Railway Station, MESCOM, Shimogga. Mob : 9448289444	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, Near Railway Station, MESCOM, Shimogga. Mob : 9448289655	Sri. K.N. Venkatagiri Rao, Bedur Post, Kalmane, Sagar - 577 401	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, Near Railway Station, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, P.B.No. 49, Shivamogga. Telephone No. 08182-225544
Chikmagalur	Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O&M Circle, Madhuvana Layout Road, MESCOM, Chikmagalur Mob : 9480833031	Executive Engineer (Office.), O&M Circle, Madhuvana Layout Road, MESCOM, Chikmagalur. Mob : 9480833037	Sri. B.M.Kumar, S/o Late B.R.Manjashetty, Manjunatha Kripa, Laxmi Nivasa, Pension Mohalla, Chikmagalur.	O/o. Superintending Engineer (Ele.), O&M Circle, Mangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited, Madhuvana Layout Road, MESCOM, P.B.No. 27, Chikmagalur. Telephone No. 08262-233313.

- **Any Grievance made by the consumer with regard to Supply of Electricity other than the following shall be submitted to the concerned CGRF of the Revenue District**
  - Unauthorised electricity supply under section 126 (Misuse of Energy)
  - Offences and penalties under Section 135 to 139 (Theft of Electricity) and
  - Accident in the Distribution supply or use of electricity under Section 161 of the Act. (Electrical Accidents)
- **Simple Procedure for Lodging Complaint / Grievance and its redressal :**
  - In the event of a complaint and not being redressed satisfactorily (by the authority of the licensee), the complainant shall submit his grievance to the Forum.
  - Grievance Redressal Mechanism available next door.
  - Every grievance lodged with the forum shall be in writing and in the prescribed format **(Form-A*)**
  - No need for consumer to engage advocate to defend his case before the CGRF
  - No need to pay Court fee for redressal of consumer grievance.
  - Consumer himself can appear before CGRF or through his authorised representative to present his case.
  - Simple procedures and decision on complaint **within 60 days** from date of admission of the complaint and it will be heard once **in 15 days.**
  - Proceedings of the forum will be conducted in Public and the decision will be recorded and communicated to the Complainant.
- **Appeal against the orders of CGRF :**
  - Any Complainant aggrieved by the orders passed by the CGRF, may make a representation against the orders passed by the CGRF to Ombudsman in **Form-B* within 30 days from the date of the receipt of the order of the Forum.**

Address, Phone No. and e-mail details of Ombudsman are given below:

The Electricity Ombudsman
Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission
No: 16C-1, Miller Tank Bea Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Tele-fax: 080- 41692617/9448772946, E-mail : ombkar@gmail.com

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer(Ele.) (Commercial)
Corporate office, MESCOM, Mangaluru

Note : * Form-A and Form-B are available on the MESCOM website www.mesco.in

To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the Fundamental duty of every citizen of India

For Electricity related Complaints and help contact 24x7 Helpline Tollfree No. 1912 and Website: www.mescomcc.com

EXFILE HISTORY

MEDDLING FOOTPRINT

Last week, a rhetorical question by US President Joe Biden at the US-Russia summit in Geneva made many political commentators snort in bemused disbelief. In an apparent effort to score points against Russia, Biden asked, "How would it be if the United States were viewed by the rest of the world as interfering with elections directly of other countries and everybody knew it?" Both Russia and the US frequently interfere in the affairs of other countries, especially during elections, which put in power the leader most willing to listen to either of the meddlers

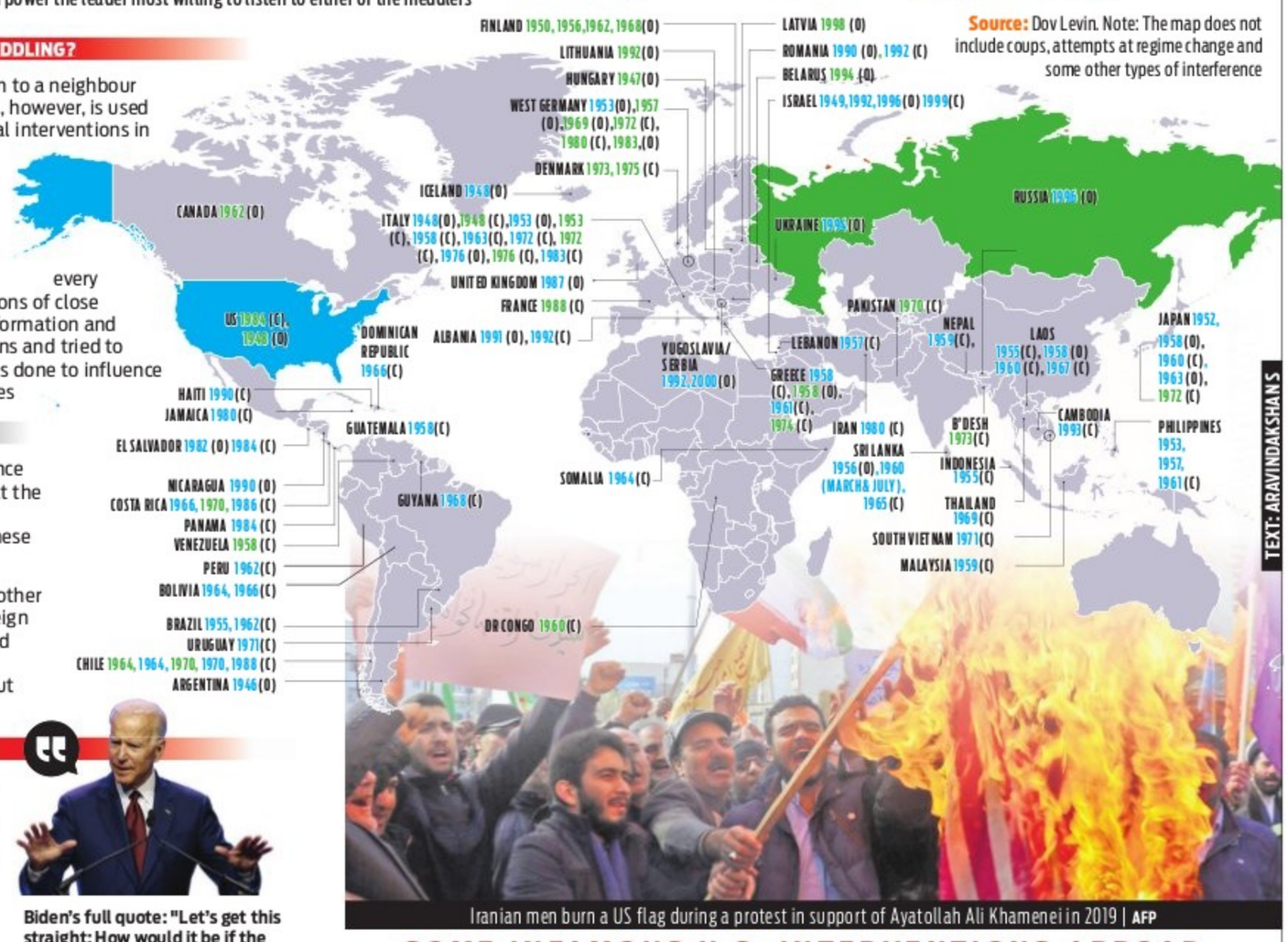
An overturned truck with a Pepsi logo burns during riots in Tehran on Dec 27, 1978. Iran's US-backed ruler at that time, Mohammed Reza Pahlevi, was forced to flee the country

MAP EXPLAINER: WHERE AND WHEN US AND USSR/RUSSIA INTERFERED IN ELECTIONS, 1947-2000

The years are colour-coded to show the interfering country and the numbers next to the names indicate the year/periods of election meddling. (C) and (O) stand for covert and overt interference. Countries whose status has changed from the time of the meddling are indicated by circles

Meddling countries UNITED STATES RUSSIA

Source: Dov Levin. Note: The map does not include coups, attempts at regime change and some other types of interference


FINLAND 1950, 1956, 1962, 1968(O)
LITHUANIA 1992(O)
HUNGARY 1947(O)
WEST GERMANY 1953(O), 1957 (O), 1969 (O), 1972 (C), 1980 (C), 1983, (O)
DENMARK 1973, 1975 (C)
ICELAND 1948(O)
CANADA 1962 (O)
ITALY 1948(O), 1948 (C), 1953 (O), 1953 (C), 1958 (C), 1963(C), 1972 (C), 1972 (C), 1976 (O), 1976 (C), 1983(C)
UNITED KINGDOM 1987 (O)
FRANCE 1988 (C)
US 1984 (C), 1948 (O)
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1966(C)
ALBANIA 1991 (O), 1992(C)
HAITI 1990 (C)
JAMAICA 1980(C)
EL SALVADOR 1982 (O) 1984 (C)
GUATEMALA 1958(C)
NICARAGUA 1990 (O)
COSTA RICA 1966, 1970, 1986 (C)
PANAMA 1984 (C)
VENEZUELA 1958 (C)
PERU 1962(C)
BOLIVIA 1964, 1966(C)
GUYANA 1968(C)
BRAZIL 1955, 1962(C)
URUGUAY 1971(C)
CHILE 1964, 1964, 1970, 1970, 1988 (C)
ARGENTINA 1946(O)
DR CONGO 1960(C)
SOMALIA 1964(C)
YUGOSLAVIA/ SERBIA 1992-2000 (O)
GREECE 1958 (C), 1958 (O), 1961(C), 1974 (C)
LEBANON 1957(C)
IRAN 1980 (C)
SRI LANKA 1956 (O), 1960 (MARCH& JULY), 1965 (C)
PAKISTAN 1970 (C)
NEPAL 1959(C),
B'DESH 1973(C)
INDONESIA 1955(C)
THAILAND 1969(C)
SOUTH VIETNAM 1971(C)
MALAYSIA 1959(C)
LAOS 1955(C), 1958 (O) 1960 (C), 1967 (C)
CAMBODIA 1993(C)
JAPAN 1952, 1958(O), 1960 (C), 1963 (O), 1972 (C)
PHILIPPINES 1953, 1957, 1961(C)
LATVIA 1998 (O)
ROMANIA 1990 (O), 1992 (C)
BELARUS 1994 (O)
ISRAEL 1949, 1992, 1996 (O) 1999(C)
RUSSIA 1996 (O)
UKRAINE 1999(O)

TEXT: ARAVINDAKSHAN S

Iranian men burn a US flag during a protest in support of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in 2019 | AFP

WHAT IS POLITICAL ELECTION MEDDLING?

Meddling sounds mild, as if it's akin to a neighbour nosing about your home. The word, however, is used by media to refer to serious political interventions in a country's electoral process in order to achieve outcomes favourable to the interfering country

The US, for instance, has installed or toppled leaders on every continent, even interfered in elections of close allies such as Japan, fanned misinformation and malicious rumours, bribed politicians and tried to swing public opinion. All of this was done to influence the political trajectories of countries

STEAL FROM THE BEST?

China has used the same interference techniques in foreign countries that the US has used for decades now, underlining the lasting legacy of these illegal acts

Besides the US, Russia and China, other countries also try to meddle in foreign nations' affairs. In fact, nations and empires have played such political games with other states throughout human history

CONTEXT OF BIDEN'S COMMENT

After the surprising 2016 election victory of Donald Trump, Americans became indignant at reports that Russia may have meddled to put the billionaire in power, though this is what the US has itself done dozens of times over its history, even through its Congress

At the Geneva summit on Wednesday, Biden was responding to a reporter's question on why the US was not taking action on Russia despite these reports of meddling, which originate from the US intelligence community

Biden's full quote: "Let's get this straight: How would it be if the United States were viewed by the rest of the world as interfering with the elections directly of other countries, and everybody knew it? What would it be like if we engaged in activities that he (Russian President Vladimir Putin) is engaged in? It diminishes the standing of a country that is desperately trying to make sure it maintains its standing as a major world power."

SOME INFAMOUS U.S. INTERVENTIONS ABROAD

1947-48	1953	1954	1965	1973
The US stalled the political momentum of Communist parties and labour unions in Italy and France and helped conservative parties win instead. The CIA literally handed over bags of money	The CIA overthrew a democratically elected PM in Iran, which led the country down the road of revolution, putting ultra-religious right in power	Guatemala's left-wing president was ousted after he challenged United Fruit, a US corporation, with farmer-friendly laws	Mass murder of up to a million Indonesians was the result of the US spreading false reports against the Indonesian Communist Party in order to aid the tyrant Suharto	Another intervention with a particularly brutal legacy was the pushing out of Salvador Allende in Chile to pave the way for Augusto Pinochet

US legislation could radically change internet

5 bills in US Congress may make firms such as Google & Apple operate like utility firms

TECHNOLOGY

WASHINGTON: The antitrust overhaul package unveiled in Congress targeting Big Tech, if enacted, could have far-reaching effects on how people use the internet and on America's biggest and most successful companies.

The five bills, due for a committee vote on Wednesday, could pave the way for a reorganization or breakup of giants such as Google, Facebook, Apple and Amazon while reshaping the entire internet ecosystem.

The measures would stop tech giants from operating a platform for third parties while offering competing services on those platforms, dealing a major blow to the likes of Apple and Amazon.

Lawmakers also are seeking to ban tech firms from prioritizing their own products or services, with Google clearly in mind. Another measure would require data "portability" and "interoperability," which could make it easier for people to quit Facebook, for example, while keeping their data and contacts.

The largest tech firms additionally would be barred from acquiring competitors under the package, which would also add funds for antitrust enforcement.

Fiona Scott Morton, a Yale University professor, said the legislation stems from the failure of antitrust enforcement in the US and elsewhere to make a dent in the dominance of major technology firms. "This is regulation, it's not antitrust anymore," Morton said.

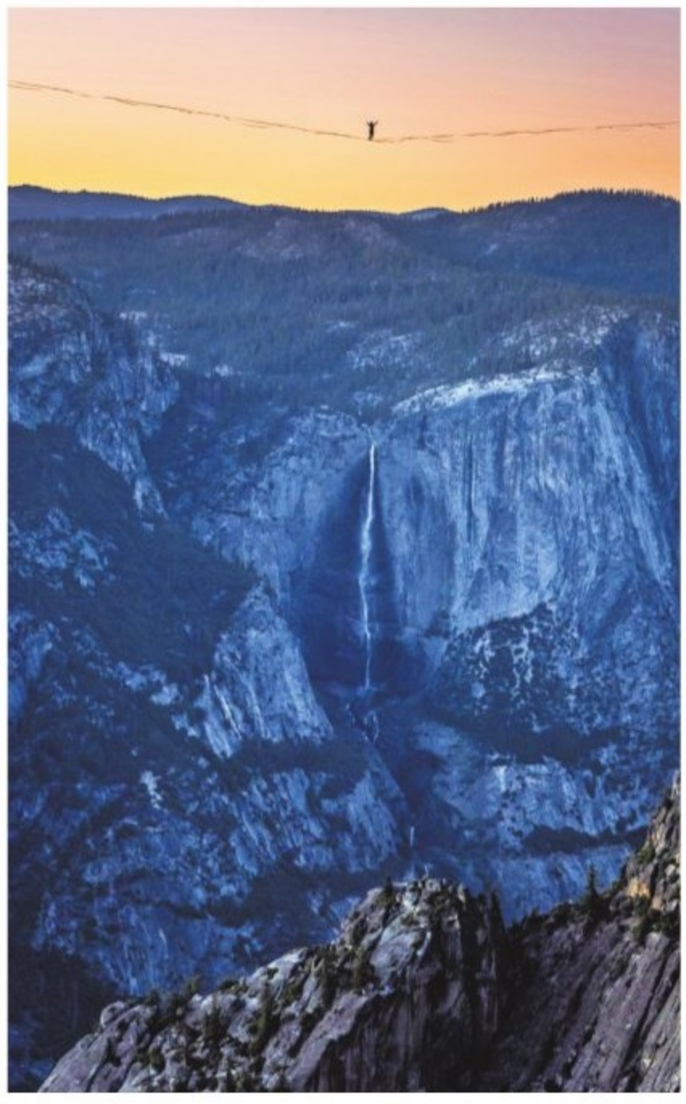
Antitrust refers to efforts by governments to stop firms from working together to control prices unfairly or to create a monopoly.

If the bills are enacted, Morton noted, Apple might have to sell or shut down its music service so that it doesn't discriminate against rivals such as Spotify. "Apple would have to choose," she said.

An interoperability requirement "would be very profound for consumers because it would let people join social networks other than Facebook and (Facebook-owned) Instagram and stay in contact with their friends," Morton noted.

The package comes amid signs of a more aggressive posture by Washington against dominant tech firms, including President Joe Biden's nomination of Lina Khan -- a prominent advocate of breaking up Big Tech -- to head the Federal Trade Commission.

Christopher Sagers, a Cleveland State University professor specializing in antitrust law, said the package represents a radical approach to dealing with tech firms' growing power. The bills "would make the platforms operate more like airlines or utility companies, which have to provide their services to anyone who wants them, and not give anyone (or themselves) discriminatory advantages," Sagers said.



Highliner Daniel Monterrubio walks the 2,800-foot-long line off Taft Point above Yosemite Valley, California. Daniel fell three or four times in the wind but made it across. The pride of a highliner is to conquer a line without slipping off | AP

NEW RECORD FOR LONGEST HIGHLINING

EXTREME FEATS

TWO brothers from San Francisco say they have set a record for the longest highline ever walked in both Yosemite National Park and California, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

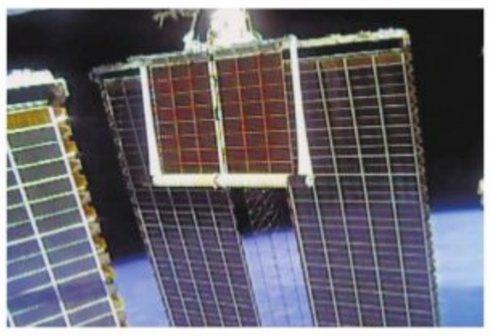
Earlier this month, they and a group of friends spent nearly a week stringing a single, 2,800-foot-long line from Taft Point west across a series of gulleys that plunge 1,600 feet.

Highlining is high-altitude slacklining, in which a narrow strip of strong, nylon webbing — usually an inch wide and a few millimeters thick — is strung between two anchor points and serves as a kind of balance beam. Completing a line means carefully heel-toeing from one end to the other while wearing a waist-harness that links to a 3-inch steel ring around the webbing. In a fall, walkers remain attached, but they have to haul themselves back up to balance or shimmy back to an anchor point while dangling upside down.

The sport has flourished over the past decade.

FACT OF THE MATTER

ISS gets new solar panel



SCIENCE

Spacewalking astronauts equipped the International Space Station with the first in a series of powerful new solar panels Sunday, overcoming suit problems and other obstacles with muscle and persistence. It took two spacewalks for French astronaut Thomas Pesquet and NASA astronaut Shane Kimbrough to install and unfurl the panel to its full 63 feet (19 meters) in length. The solar wing unrolled like a red carpet once the final set of bolts was released, relying solely on pent-up energy. The slow but steady extension took 10 minutes, with station cameras providing live TV views. "It is beautiful," Pesquet called out. "Well done, both of you," Mission Control replied once the operation was complete.

Lithium cells in Europe

TECHNOLOGY

As electric car sales soar, Europe has started to build up its capacity to produce batteries on the continent but it remains far from reducing its dependence on Asia. Europe now has projects to build 38 gigafactories with a combined annual output of 1,000 gigawatt hours and an estimated cost of 40 billion euros, as per a June report by Transport & Environment, a NGO. This annual supply could be reached by 2029-2030 and would be the equivalent to the production of 16.7 million battery electric vehicles, a T&E spokesman told AFP. Asian manufacturers are also investing in Europe, with the Chinese group AESC planning to work with Toyota and Renault on battery plants in Britain and France.

SRI RAMACHANDRA
INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH
(Category - I Deemed to be University) Porur, Chennai

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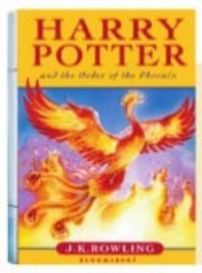
MONDAY

Shivanna's Bhajarangi 2 looking at August release

PG 4



DAY'S DIARY

Book release

The fifth instalment of the *Harry Potter* series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, by JK Rowling was released on this day in 2003

A SPECIAL TREAT

Fans had to wait three years for this instalment. As a special treat, 60 children from Blackwood and Clifton Schools had a 'sleep-in' at the Waterstones Book Shop in Birmingham

IMPORTANT PLOTLINE

In *Order of the Phoenix*, Harry and Snape are forced to spend some quality time together, due to Snape being an accomplished Legilimens — someone who can get inside your thoughts

AWARDS

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix won Bram Stoker Award for Best Work for Young Readers, and WH Smith People's Choice Book Awards in Fiction category

WORLD YOGA DAY

BREATH OF RELIEF

Many Bengalureans are now turning towards pranayama to learn how to breathe better and calm their mind during the pandemic

SIMRAN AHUJA

IT'S been a month since Sacika J Satish started pranayama classes but the 25-year-old is already all praises for its benefits. "Breathing is voluntary and an involuntary action, but we're always dependant on the latter. These pranayama classes teach you how to breathe, which is ironic considering we do it every second of the day, but most of us are doing it wrong," says the city-based architect and copywriter. Satish is not the only one turning towards pranayama in these times. According to Divya Rolla, yoga and meditation head, Cult.fit, in the last six weeks, they have seen 300-400 people registering for their twice-a-week pranayama sessions on Zoom. "Hardly 40-50 people would have enrolled for a similar session pre-Covid," she adds.

But what exactly is pranayama? Rolla explains, "Pranayama is paying attention to how we breathe and using certain practises to break bad breathing habits, quiet the nervous system, oxygenate the whole body, reduce stress, reduce blood pressure, and most importantly help quiet the mind."

Feeling more energetic and at one with her herself physically and mentally are changes Satish noticed. "My parents, who also got inspired by me, now do it too and it's been a relief to see my mother's breathlessness get better. Covid may not be in our control but at least with pranayama, I know we'll be in a better state to handle whatever comes our way," she says.

At yoga and fitness company Lyf Wellness, pranayama used to be a small segment of their yoga sessions. But with demand from students for exclusive sessions, co-founders Jannet V and Violet F introduced short 25-minutes sessions last month that focused on just pranayama. It was designed to enhance lung capacity, boost the immune system and correct breathing processes naturally. "Using the full capacity of the lungs aids better immunity and has other benefits. For example, anulom vilom balances and calms the mind and bhramari helps with memory and insomnia," explains Jannet. One of their students, Suja P, says, "Earlier I wouldn't be able to sleep even at 2 am but now I am sleepy by 9.45pm."

Sacika J Satish

Dr Rajiv Rajesh, Chief Yoga Officer, Jindal Naturecure Institute, says several queries about pranayama have come in over the past few months. According to him, to benefit from pranayama, one should practice this after yoga poses. "The breath is to be smooth and even and not strained even after breath retention. It is best to practise pranayama in the morning on an empty stomach and in a room with fresh air," he suggests. Pranayama with fast rhythms or breath retention should not be practiced if someone has asthma, heart disease, hypertension or is pregnant. "People with health conditions must speak with their health professional before practising," he adds.

Divya Rolla

Monika Manchanda, a city-based food writer and consultant, co-founder and chief culinary officer at LiveAltLife, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents are published here. Prize: The first prize winner this week will win a complimentary voucher (worth `1,500) on delivery from HakkaChow.*

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1. Empire 2. ChaiPoint 3. Abhijit Saha

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1. Nupur Mehta
2. Praveen V
3. Prabhakar Talanki

*Conditions apply

Game changer

Ronaldo setting aside bottles of a drink, has got fans wanting sportspersons to take a stand when it comes to endorsing products

SANATH PRASAD

FOOTBALL is no stranger to controversy. Most recently, football player and Portugal team's captain Cristiano Ronaldo swapped two Coca Cola bottles for water during a press conference at the UEFA Euro 2020. And this, has caused a huge furore with the brand supposedly facing a loss of $4 billion in market value. All this as a fallout of Ronaldo's action, the ripples of which are being felt on social media. Football fans from across, including Bengaluru, are giving the star player a shout-out for his 'hard-hitting' move.

Hemanth Balasubramanian, joint secretary, Liverpool FC Bangalore Supporters' Club, says "Sportspersons should not endorse aerated drinks because it is harmful to health. UEFA should also be held responsible for allowing a brand which is not healthy to be one of the sponsors. When we held a local-level English Premier League in 2020, an energy drink company came forward as sponsor. But we went ahead with a healthier sports-themed beverage brand," says Balasubramanian, adding, "It is time for Indian sportspersons to take a stand on what they endorse. Their reach must be used to send out the right message."

Following the incident, Rohith Raj, a hardcore Ronaldo fan and a city-based marketing professional, is now thinking of quitting aerated drinks. "Ronaldo's incident was a wake-up call for me to stop drinking fizzy drinks," says Raj, who feels that the brand will come back stronger and may even push alternative products.

Agree brand experts who opine that the beverage giant will spring back sooner than later. Sujith Mohan, a Bengaluru-based communication specialist, says, "This is not a big wound for the brand. It is just a pinch. The product is no stranger to controversies. From levelling charges of using coke as a toilet cleaner to the sugar controversies, the brand has faced it all. Things will just fizzle out."

The episode did not stop with Ronaldo's move. French player Paul Pogba was also seen removing Hieneken beer during a press conference last week. Following repeated incidents, UEFA Events SA CEO Martin Kallen issued a statement that players must refrain from moving sponsor bottles during press conferences. Suvajyoti Ghosh, managing director, Brandmovers, says, "There are a lot of other market forces that have to be taken into account. But there is no doubt that the sales have taken a hit. This is because a player as big as Ronaldo communicated a message voluntarily which will make anyone reconsider before picking up the drink from a store," says Ghosh.

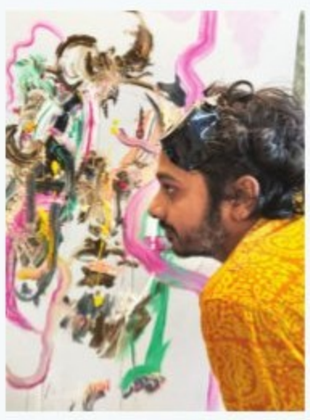
Cristiano Ronaldo

Ronaldo's incident was a wake-up call for me to stop drinking fizzy drinks

Rohith Raj, marketing professional

Something's cooking

Even as social media is abuzz with Father's Day posts, director K M Chaitanya posted a video of his mother teaching him how to make eggs and cheese. "I was experimenting with this app called Kinemaster. I still have to learn how this app works. Hope you guys learn how to make egg and cheese," shared Chaitanya. Take a look and give it a try!



Moving on

Artist Raghava KK took to social media to share how he's getting over the fear of solitude. "3 years ago, my wife left me and I felt lost. Soon after, my kids left for America to be with their mom and I was forced to face my own loneliness..," he posted, sharing some tips. "Remind yourself as often as possible that you are not entitled to anything in the world and be grateful for all that you receive." Right? Right.

CITY READ

Talent show inaugurated

BMSIT started E-Utsaha, BMSIT Got Talent to rekindle the talent of students on a virtual stage. It was inaugurated by M Madan Gopal, IAS(retd.), chairman, BMSIT&M. Students can showcase their talents by participating in many fun-filled events during the month-long programme. Anand Malligavad, lake conservationist, Kapil Sharma, founder, SayTress, Dr Mohan Babu GN, principal BMSIT&M were present.

WORLD MUSIC DAY

Three teens, two countries, one band

Meet these youngsters who have come together to play a tribute to Led Zeppelin

EXPRESS FEATURES

THERE'S a lot of music in the making in these times, either because of the sheer number of hours being spent indoors, or as a means to handle stress. Three teenagers – Manou Rao, Jaime Dudley, and Tanya Shanker – who are finding their feet in the music industry have come together to play a tribute to the band Led Zeppelin. With two of them based in India and the third in France, they have used technology to create a music video which will be released on YouTube on June 21, which happens to be World Music Day. Led Zeppelin is the famous band from the '60s which released their unnamed album 'Led Zeppelin IV' on November 8, 1971, with most of the songs in the album reaching the top of the charts. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of this album, the three artistes have put together a tribute.

Manou Rao, Jaime Dudley, Tanya Shanker

Jaime Dudley

Rao, a 17-year-old student, who has been playing the guitar for about 10 years, says that this collaboration came about owing to the trio's passion for rock. "But the main challenge we encountered was not being able to rehearse together," says Rao, the grandson of Hindustani musician Vidushi Lalith J Rao. "We want to use rock as a base and see how this could transition into what the trends of today are. To do this, we will try to use our complementary strengths," adds Rao, who was born in Paris but spent his early years in Bengaluru.

17-year-old Dudley who is working his way up as a drummer, recalls the exchange of several ideas after which they recorded the tracks virtually. "It was tough but our manager and mentor Richard Andrew really helped us," says the law student, adding that the main challenge was the choice of song because Zeppelin has many hits. With a lot of music being made in these times, Dudley feels that as cliche as it may sound, they mix the old with the new. "In fact our next project is a cover of Korean superstars BTS and BlackPink," he says.

STAR-STUDDED SHOW

Catch the star-studded comedy show by ABC Production- Aaye Bade comics. The show will feature artistes like Shreeja Chaturvedi, Manish Tyagi, Saikiran, Srijan Kaushik, Agrima Joshua, Rishi Nigam and Surprise Spot.
When: June 25, 10 pm
Details: insider.in

REVISITING HARRY POTTER

It's story time! Catch your favourite Harry Potter series with the Harry Potter Book Night which offers amazing activities, event ideas, and practical resources themed around Diagon Alley. Get to hear interesting discussions on Hogwarts, secrets of Diagon Alley, and also witness some live performances. **When:** June 24 Details: insider.in

STREET WEAR COLLECTION

Adidas has launched a new collection in collaboration with American supermodel Karlie Kloss. The new collection includes track pants and top layers for a streetwear look. The collection comes in a palette of green and black. Check them out on the Adidas website.

KALARI CLASSES

Sign up for Attakkalari classes online and learn the art of Kalaripayattu and other dance forms from experts. The session will focus on classes in contemporary, Kathak, Bharatanatyam, hip-hop and more. **When:** Till June 27 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

CATCH **LASYA'S BHARATANATYAM SHOW** FEATURING DANCER CHINMAYI GUDI. **WHEN:** JUNE 27, 7PM **TICKETS:** BOOKMYSHOW.COM

MASTERCHEF CLASSES

Sign up for ITC's Master Chef All-Purpose Gravies workshop- Recipes Made Easy- a live cook-along. Chef Kirti Bhoutika and Chef Akanksha Khatri will train you in preparing restaurant-like dishes at home and some exciting tips and tricks for your favourite recipes. **When:** Until June 27, **Details:** bookmyshow.com

GARDENING CLASSES

Anjana Khilnani, a garden expert is conducting gardening classes for children between the age group 5-15 years. The online session focuses on blending the old art of storytelling and practical knowledge of gardening to offer an imaginative workshop for young minds.
When: June 26, **Details:** insider.in

RIGHT CONNECTIONS

Sign up for BigBang.Social's weekly workshops as it helps you connect with several influencers, brands and business leaders. The workshop focuses on inspiring, informing, connecting and celebrating the creator's ecosystem with different themes and subjects every week.
When: Until July 1 **Details:** insider.in

MUSIC, CHAT AND FUN

Catch Indian Foundation for the Arts as they host Hitting the High Notes, featuring bass guitarist Rahul Ram.
He will be sharing his long and exciting journey with music through songs and conversations. Also get a chance to interact with the artiste for 30 minutes after the programme. **When:** June 26, 7:30 pm
Details: insider.in

LEARNING TRADE

Sign up for an online class in trading strategies which will help you get return on investments. The online session is conducted by Zebu, which will train you in advanced trading strategies, analysis, measuring capital risk and much more. **When:** June 26 **Details:** bookmyshow.com

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

CABBAGE DOSA

INGREDIENTS

- **Cabbage:** 3 cups, finely chopped ■ **Water:** 1 cup
- **Rice:** 1 cup ■ **Urad dal:** 2 tbsp
- **Methi water** (for soaking): ½ tsp
- **Dried red chilli:** 10

For masala paste

- **Coconut:** 1 cup, grated ■ **Coriander seeds:** 2 tbsp
- **Cumin:** 1 tbsp ■ **Jaggery:** 1/4 cup
- **Tamarind pulp:** 3 tbsp
- **Turmeric:** 1/2 tsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Soak rice, urad dal and methi, for five hours along with dried red chillies.
- Blend the soaked chillies, coconut, coriander seeds, cumin, jaggery, tamarind pulp, turmeric and salt to a smooth paste.
- Blend the batter. Transfer into a bowl and add cabbage. Make smooth consistency.
- Grease the pan and pour a ladleful of batter. Spread a thick layer. Pour ½ tsp coconut oil. Cover for a minute.
- Flip over and cook on another side. Enjoy cabbage dosa with butter or coconut oil.

— Nalini Sharma, New Delhi

FIT BIT

ARDHA UTTANASANA

(STANDING HALF FORWARD BEND POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'ardha' means half, 'uttana' means intense stretch and 'asana' means pose. It is a standing forward fold that relaxes and restores the body and mind. It is included in Surya Namaskara (Sun Salutation) sequences. It immediately follows Uttanasana (forward fold), and lifts the upper body in preparation for stepping back into the rest of the sequence. It restores and rejuvenates the body, in addition to calming the brain. It is associated with the Ajna (third eye) chakra. It creates pressure or stimulation in the area of the third eye, which improves mental function and intuition. Also stimulates Mooladhara (root) and Manipura (solar plexus) chakras.

STEPS

- Come into a standing Tadasana (Mountain Pose). Your feet should remain hip-width apart, aligned to each other.
- Stretch your arms overhead in Urdhva Hastasana and gaze upon your thumb tip.
- Exhale and bend from the lower back in the forward direction.
- You can come into a tabletop position, where back is slightly lower than hip level and palms touching flat on the ground. If necessary, bend your knees slightly and reach down with your palms resting flat on the floor.
- Slowly lift your torso up to the point where it comes almost parallel to the floor. For this, you can raise your palms up and only your fingertips touch the floor.
- Your hand should be shoulder-distance apart, shoulder parallel to each other and the neck should be straight. Look at the floor.
- This is complete posture. Maintain the position as long as it is comfortable. Keep breathing normally.
- To come out from the pose, inhale and come back from the lower back to a standing position to relax the body.

BENEFITS

- Reduces stress, anxiety, depression.
- Strengthens the core muscles.
- Strengthens the hamstring.
- Strengthens lower back; provides support to the spine and torso.
- Helps manage diabetes.
- Improves the blood circulation.

LIMITATIONS

- Women should avoid this during later stages of pregnancy and while menstruating.
- Practitioners with lower back and neck conditions, and acidity refrain from this asana.
- Those who have recent abdominal surgery should avoid this.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

CITY OF WOMEN
In this podcast, the hosts explore the calculated strategies, backdoor negotiations, and often absurd lengths women go to have fun and feel free in their city. It's a fun, complex, and a bit of a joyride into the minds of women and the streets of Bengaluru.
- On Spotify

GOOD TALK
Hosts Tunde and Sam bring you the latest in the world of sports, pop culture, technology, and entrepreneurship. They also feature fascinating individuals who engage in a variety of conversations that include insights on their careers.
- On Stitcher

THE ALARMIST
Who is to blame for history's greatest tragedies? The Plague. The sinking of The Titanic. The break-up of the Beatles. Writer and comedian Rebecca Delgado-Smith and guests scrutinize history's greatest disasters to figure out what went wrong, and most importantly, who's to blame.
- On Google Podcast

MOTHERHOOD SESSIONS
On Motherhood Sessions, Dr Alexandra Sacks, a renowned reproductive psychiatrist sits down with mothers and lets us listen in on conversations that are hard to have outside of a therapist's office.
- On Stitcher

EVERYTHING IS ALIVE
Everything is Alive is an unscripted interview show in which all the subjects are inanimate objects. In each episode, a different thing tells us its life story — and everything it says is true.
- On Apple Podcast

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

JAGUAR
Krishna, an orphan and a first-year MBBS student, dons a vigilante avatar and seemingly kills people randomly. He also tries to woo his friend's sister, Priya.
- Cast: Nikhil Gowda Deepti Sati

SEETHARAMAKALYANA
Arya, a righteous man, falls in love with a small-town woman named Geetha, unaware of the obstacles that lie ahead for both of them.
- Cast: Nikhil Gowda, Rachita Ram

MILANA
Anjali's father forces her to marry Akash. Unable to forget her past, she demands a divorce from Akash, but soon begins to fall for him.
- Cast: Puneet Rajkumar, Parvathy Thiruvothu

HEBBULI
After Ram's brother dies suddenly, he decides to investigate the reason behind his death. However, he must fight against the corrupt system to protect his family and find the truth.
- Cast: Kichcha Sudeep, Ravichandran

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 HOW MARIJUANA REFORM COULD REPAIR, RECLAIM AND RESTORE COMMUNITIES BY KHADIJAH TRIBBLE
As more states in the USA move to legalise cannabis, social entrepreneur and activist Khadijah Tribble calls for equitable reform that centers on the casualties of the war and its insidious policies and paves a path toward restorative justice.

2 CAN YOU ACTUALLY BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM? HERE'S THE TRUTH BY JEN GUNTER
Diving into the elegant network of cells, tissues and organs that protect us every day, Dr Jen Gunter introduces two kinds of immunity that specialise in recognising and fighting off bad bacteria, viruses, fungi and toxins — and shares what you can do to keep your immune system healthy.

3 A NEW APPROACH TO DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS BY ITAMAR MANN
In this gripping talk, litigator and TED Fellow Itamar Mann details the perilous boat migrations of asylum seekers crossing the Mediterranean Sea. He explains how lawyers are making progress in prosecuting human rights abuses happening on militarised coasts.

4 HOW TO FIND MEANING AFTER LOSS BY DAVID KESSLER
You may be familiar with the five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. After decades of research and his own experience with tragic loss, grief expert David Kessler ventured beyond that classic framework and sought a sixth, crucial stage: meaning.

5 HOW TO BE A PROFESSIONAL TROUBLEMAKER BY LUVVIE AJAYI JONES
Disrupting the status quo can be scary, but sometimes it's necessary to make the world a fairer place. Reclaiming what it means to be a troublemaker, author Luvvie Ajayi Jones shares three questions to ask yourself when tackling fear and standing up for what you believe in — and urges all of us to speak up in ways that honor ourselves and others.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

ARISHADVARGA (Kannada)
An aspiring actor doubling as an amateur gigolo gets caught up in a sticky situation after accepting a surprise gift from an anonymous client. Cast: Sumyuktha Hornad, Anju Alva Naik
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

EASWARAN (Tamil)
A close-knit family begins to come apart at the seams due to an astrologer's predictions of an imminent tragedy.
Cast: Silambarasan, Nidhhi Agereal, Manoj Bharathiraja, Nandita Swetha
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

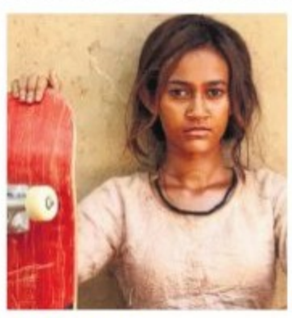
HUM BHI AKELE TUM BHI AKELE (Hindi)
A homosexual boy. A lesbian girl. A road trip from New Delhi to Himachal which helps them discover the love in friendship.
Cast: Zareen Khan, Anshuman Jha, Gurfateh Pirzada, Janhvi Rawat
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

KAVACHA (Kannada)
Jayarama, who is visually challenged, agrees to be the guardian of a young girl, Meenakshi, after her father is murdered. Soon, he finds himself battling a serial killer whose new target is Meenakshi.
Cast: Shiva Rajkumar, Isha Kopikkar, Ravi Kale, Kruthika Jayakumar
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

UTTAMA VILLAIN (Tamil)
Manoranjan, a superstar, is diagnosed with a brain tumour. However, as a last wish, he sets out to shoot a comedy film with his mentor, Margadarsi, with whom he had a falling out years ago.
Cast: Kamal Haasan, Pooja Kumar, K Balachander, Andrea Jeremiah
- Watch on: Zee5

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

SHERNI (Hindi)
An upright Forest Officer who strives for balance in a world of man-animal conflict while she also seeks her true calling in a hostile environment.
Cast: Vidya Balan, Mukul Chaddha, Vijay Raaz
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video



SKATER GIRL (Hindi, English)
When a teen in rural India discovers a life-changing passion for skateboarding, she faces a rough road as she follows her dream to compete.
Cast: Rachel Sanchita Gupta, Shafin Patel, Amrit Maghera, Jonathan Readwin, Waheeda Rehman
- Watch on: Netflix

ENGLISH

THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF DAVID COPPERFIELD
The life of David Copperfield from childhood to maturity, with his own adventures and the web of friends and enemies he meets along his way.
Cast: Dev Patel, Tilda Swinton, Ben Whishaw, Hugh Laurie
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE WITCHES
A young orphaned boy and his grandma set out to a seaside resort. They arrive at precisely the same time that the world's Grand High Witch has gathered her fellow cronies from around the globe to carry out her nefarious plans.
Cast: Anne Hathaway, Octavia Spencer, Jahzir Bruno, Stanley Tucci
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

LOVE, SIMON
Simon Spier keeps his sexual orientation a secret from his family. However, when a blackmailer threatens to reveal it, he goes on a roller-coaster journey to come to terms with his identity.
Cast: Nick Robinson, Katherine Langford, Keiynan Lonsdale, Alexandra Shipp
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

POSE (series)
While New York witnesses the evolution of the ball culture and the rise of the Trump-era, an LGBTQ ball fixture, Blanca, starts her own house and turns mother to a gifted dancer and a sex worker.
Cast: Mj Rodriguez, Billy Porter, Indya Moore, Dominique Jackson
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION
Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Zee 5: ₹ 99 per month
Netflix: ₹ 199 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 299 per month

BEAT THE URGE TO SPLURGE

Are you hitting 'add to cart' often to beat the pandemic blues? Here's how you can take charge of that habit and cope better

Before Covid struck, I was busy throughout the week. But now, I am near my phone all the time and subconsciously open these apps
– Agrata Chowdhury, data researcher

SUDESHNA DUTTA

GONE are the days when we could go out on weekends, buy whatever we need, eat all we want, do a little window shopping and head home. Thanks to the pandemic, this activity is being reenacted almost every day, through various e-commerce websites and food delivery platforms.

Besides ordering food every single day, Vedprakash Rout comes across multiple advertisements while scrolling through social media. "The message of the ads revolves around productivity, and seeing them makes me want to buy things that I don't need but feel that they will be of use because we are stuck at home. Till now, I have bought four headphones, a mechanical keyboard, knife sharpener, and more. They are just lying around the house now," says the 28-year-old software engineer, adding, "Junk food in the name of snacks is what majority of my online grocery orders consist of."

Part of data researcher Agrata Chowdhury's savings goes towards buying cosmetics. "Before Covid struck, I was busy throughout the week. But now, I am near my phone all the time and subconsciously open these apps," says the Bengalurean.

Offering a solution to curb the habit of over-spending, Mrin Agarwal, founder, Finsafe, says, "It is important to limit expenses to 30 per cent of your take-home income. Within this, set a lifestyle budget and stick to it. Give yourself a 24-hour buffer before you decide to buy something. This allows you to reduce impulsive purchases."

Dr Athulya Jayakumar, consultant clinical psychologist, Columbia Asia Hospital Sarjapur Road, says, "A lot of habits that people would engage in for comfort, coping and pleasure are currently unavailable. The first half of the pandemic brought in a surge of activities such as Instagram trends, Zoom calls and so on, but now, people are unable to follow through at this point. Hence, ordering in food and indulging in shopping are being sought out to soothe themselves." A helpful strategy, she adds, is to delay the urge by 30 minutes or one hour. "In most cases, the intensity of the craving will reduce and rational thought will return," she says.

With city restaurants opening themselves up for direct orders now, the demand for outside food exists more than ever. As a result, Dr Pavithra, internal medicine, Columbia Asia Hospital, Hebbal, has seen patients coming in with acute gastro-enteritis problems during the lockdown. "The major reason is the high sodium content in food. It would eventually lead to high blood pressure, high cholesterol with obesity and increase in blood sugar levels," she says.

Dr Esther Sathiaraj, head, clinical nutrition and dietetics, HCG Cancer Hospital, adds that it can further contribute to weight gain, abdominal obesity and health diseases linked to obesity such as fatty liver, metabolic syndrome, dyslipidemia, hypertension, diabetes and certain cancers. "Outside food should be taken with caution. Foodborne infections and unsafe food can further weaken our immune system while we are trying to build immunity during the pandemic," she says. Dr Pavithra has two key suggestions: "Regular exercise and eating home-cooked food is recommended."

SPENDING IN CHECK

- Limit overall expenses to 30 per cent of your total take-home income
- Within the 30 per cent kept aside for expenses, set a lifestyle budget and make sure you stick to it
- Give yourself a 24-hour buffer before you decide to buy something
- Instead of ordering food, eating home-cooked food is recommended

Striking a pose

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

This International Day of Yoga, lets look at some of the reasons why a regular practice of yoga can do you a world of good. Like many other activities, yoga too is done to stay healthy in mind and body. If you wish to extend the benefits of yoga to your skin, then embrace yogic principles into your life, such as cultivating happiness, self-discipline, inner strength, contentment and gratitude.

Many poses or asanas help with a healthy gut, which is essential for healthy skin. Yoga flushes out the toxins from the system thus preventing acne, discolouration and accelerated ageing. The yogic principle of self-discipline requires one to give up on certain habits that could lead to a healthier self. Breaking this chain with behavioural and lifestyle changes is again a yogic activity.

Yoga also boosts immunity and keeps us healthy, which is good during these pandemic times. Akshar from Akshar Power Yoga says, "By practising asanas like Chakrasana (wheel pose), Dhanurasana (bow pose) and Ustrasana (camel pose), the chest expands and the lungs get more oxygen. This is important to increase oxygen levels. This makes the pose beneficial to prevent respiratory diseases like coronavirus."

There's also face yoga, which involves exercises that stimulate the skin and lymphatic system. Facial yoga also takes care of the stress related to anger, anxiety and worry, thus alleviating the tension of nerves and relaxing the facial muscles. You can practice it while in the bathroom, cooking or reading. There are yoga exercises to help with concerns related to double chin, jawline, under eye and more. Ema Trinidad, international face yoga instructor, says, "Do you know that your emotions and constant facial expressions get etched on your face? One of my secrets to achieving a youthful looking face is the facial muscle memory technique in face yoga." If you want to try it out, Trinidad suggests, "Get a mirror and observe your face. What is the muscle memory that you have saved on your face over the years? Muscle memory or motor learning can be relearned through constant practice."

Wondering what to wear while practising yoga? It's common knowledge that yogis don't need to always be dressed in yoga pants to strike a pose. We have spoken a lot about athleisure wear that can be used with equal ease for yoga or for a Zoom call but let us also discuss off-beat clothing options that could transform into a style statement. Some yoginis do the best poses in organic sustainable sarees. Yoga is about fluidity in movements and it requires alignment of body, mind and soul. You can wear anything and practise yoga. Manisha Soni from Akshar Power Yoga says, "I have built myself to practise in any attire! It's a mental state."

(The author is a social media influencer @loftyspectrums and lifestyle coach)

Manisha Soni

CITY READ

Mask distribution drive conducted

The partners of SR Groups, Raghu SR and Ravi SR, Partner of The House of Barbeque Purushotham, and others took up an initiative to distribute 1,500 masks in three weeks to all government departments, police stations, fire stations, Bescom, delivery boys, and others.

Performance by young artistes for Music Day

On the occasion of World Music Day, Gangaram Sangeet came out with a talk show and live performances by young artistes. The initiative, 'Naqsh-a-Yuva', was released on June 20 on their YouTube channel.

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi
@quaffle_waffle
(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Silently eclipsing all games, Free Fire

Life has not been the same since I swore off PUBG Mobile. It has been a long hiatus from competitive Battle Royale, but I am back this time, with my thoughts on Free Fire. Reader, you may not have played it. But you've definitely heard of it. Time for a quick history lesson on the game. Back in 2018, PUBG mobile was in it's heyday. Millions with access to a smartphone and Internet took to the game, all in pursuit of the elusive Chicken Dinner. However, on the sidelines emerged an alternate. It was another Battle Royale game intended to suit lower-end mobile devices, endorsing quicker game times. Little did we know that Free Fire would ultimately scavenge on the ghost of PUBG Mobile warriors.

In almost all aspects, Garena Free Fire mimicked PUBG Mobile. The first thing I noticed was the font on the menu screen. They are the same. The "Bermuda" map is a mini-Erangel. After exploring the buildings in Pochinok (Free Fire), I am quite certain that the architects took inspiration from the lovely residences back in Pochinki (PUBG). Only, this time they didn't add the openable doors. Aiming is easier with the helpful assist provided by Free Fire. But it still makes you feel like you put in the effort to find the player scurrying across the map.

I don't mean to sound critical of Free Fire: but they've done their best in copying PUBG's homework, without making it too obvious. There are some key upgrades over PUBG which make the experience more confrontational. There's the UAV option, which reveals enemy locations. It keeps campers on their toes. There's the mildly fortnite-ish "Gloo Wall", which extends the duration of the end game circle. The Gloo Wall is a bit of genius. Proning in open areas in Free Fire is not an option, given low resolution and easy aim options. Gloo Walls provide a tactical advantage of a protective wall maze, to help sneak up on the enemy.

My real contention with Free Fire is this — the confusing main menu. A battle-scarred sharpshooter in Free Fire may find the excess of options exciting. There's more for them to discover and push for in the game. But a novice, or even a user experience designer, may blink furiously at the sheer number of buttons on the main menu. You hardly know which click would cost you money (but perhaps that was the point, really). Free Fire has learnt immensely from the monopoly of the Indian mobile royale network, and is consistently improving and changing things around. However, I still do miss the relatively low-stunt, non-gimmicky PUBG versions. Wonder what the new Battlegrounds Mobile India holds for us. Till then, Booyah, I guess?

ON YOUR OWN PATH

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran
http://goo.gl/uNBWN3
(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

Anachrony is set on a post-apocalyptic Earth, in which large sections of the surviving population have fragmented into radically different factions called Paths; each with their own philosophies, agendas and isolated home bases. However, the bulk of humanity still resides in the Capital, the last major city on the planet. When a wormhole opens from the future, the knowledge of time travel is unlocked for the Paths; but it comes with warning of a catastrophic asteroid impact that will take place in the near future. Players take control of one of the Paths and try to build up your base as best you can to prepare for the devastating impact that will soon occur; but you're also trying to arrange matters so that the bulk of the Capital will evacuate to your base instead of your rivals, ensuring that you'll be in charge once the dust settles.

Getting to the Capital, however, is no simple matter either. Whatever the original cataclysm was that wrecked the planet also made large areas of it inimical to human life. So, if you want to send workers to the Capital, you'll have to send them in giant mechsuits to keep them alive. However, in a touch that's at once genius and maddening, you need to power up these mechs before the round actually begins — which is a perfect example of how Anachrony forces you to plan ahead.

Perhaps my favourite aspect of Anachrony is this — you remember that whole 'message from the future' that started everything off and gave everyone access to time travel? Well, you can use that to your advantage by requisitioning resources from your future self. The catch, though — there's always one — is that, at some point in future rounds, you're going to need to build a time machine and essentially give up whatever resources you originally received in order to close the loop. If you don't, you get paradoxes and maybe even anomalies for messing with the timeline — as, really, you might expect.

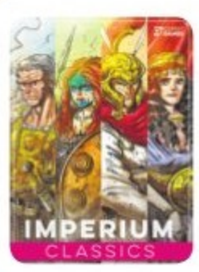
Once the asteroid hits (after round 4), the game shifts into fast-forward mode. The Capital is collapsing and its people are desperate to escape - meaning that your opportunities to interact with the Capital are limited, but the rewards are multiplied. If you can perform an evacuation, you'll score according to your personal faction objectives; but you don't even need to bother with that if you're hoovering up points elsewhere. It's a glorious open-ended puzzle, and there's never a clear solution.

Hopefully it's clear by now, but I'll spell it out just in case - Anachrony is more complex than most, if not all of the other games I've written about here. It's a definite brain-burner, but it is well worth the effort you put into it. Although I've never liked answering the question 'what's your favourite game?' — there's so many to choose from! — if you twisted my arm, I'd probably pick Anachrony.

WHAT'S NEW?

Anachrony: Fractures of Time

If Anachrony whetted your appetite but didn't melt your brain, Mindclash has recently put out a few expansions to finish off the job. Fractures of Time is the big one — it adds a new board, a new faction and a new way of messing with the timeline.



Imperium: Classics

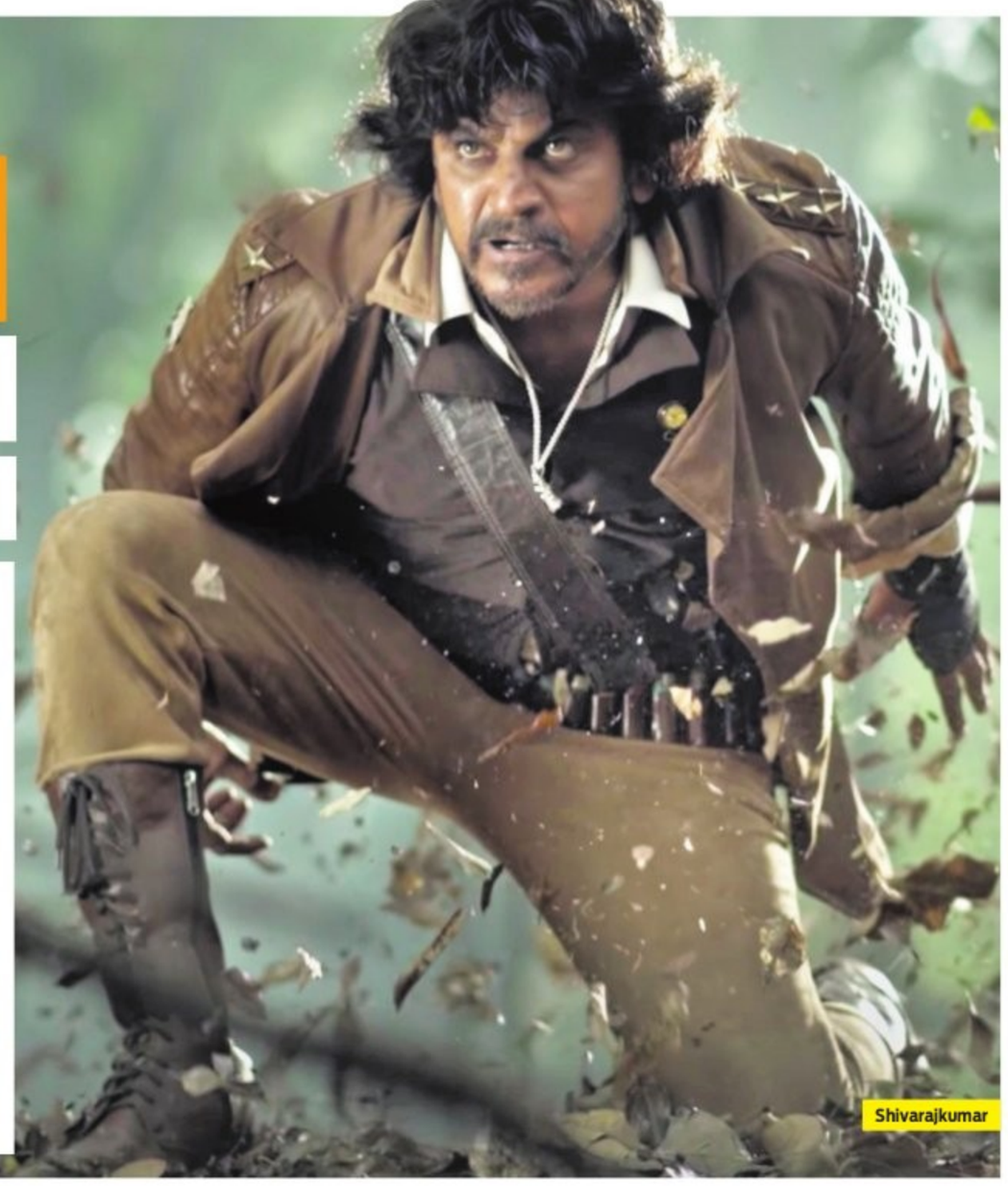
Imperium: Classics is a civilization game condensed into a few decks of cards, from the minds of Nigel Buckle and Dávid Turczi (who also happens to be the designer of Anachrony). There is a lot going on in this game — it's not often I find myself more confused after a few plays of a game than before, but I'm looking forward to figuring this one out.

Unfathomable

Battlestar Galactica, one of the most beloved hidden-roles games out there, has been out of print for awhile. Thankfully, Fantasy Flight Games is bringing it back in a new avatar — Unfathomable. Out with the cylons, in with the Lovecraftian horror; safe to say, though, that it's a definite upgrade looks-wise.

SHIVARAJKUMAR'S BHAJARANGI 2 LOOKING AT AUGUST RELEASE

Director A Harsha, who has completed 60 per cent of the post production, will now resume with the re-recording with music director Arjun Janya


Shivarajkumar

A SHARADHAA

WITH the government lifting the lockdown slowly, filmmakers are getting back to complete their films. A Harsha, director of *Bhajarangi 2* which stars Shivarajkumar, says that 60 per cent of the film's post production is complete. The remaining work will start today. "I am now left with 40 per cent of the work, and I will resume work with music director Arjun Janya. We will be doing the re-recording from today and this will be followed with DI and bringing out the first copy," says Harsha, who has been discussing the status with the Century Star as well as producer Jayanna.

There has been a lot of buzz that the makers are working towards releasing the film in August. "The release date is producers Jayanna and Bogendra's call. An August release is what the production house has planned. However, it all depends on when the government gives permission to theatres to open with 100 per cent occupancy," says Harsha, who asserts that *Bhajarangi 2* is a commercial entertainer, and will first be released in theatres only. The action-drama is a hattrick combination of the actor and director, who have previously worked together in *Vajrakaya* and *Bhajarangi*. The duo is also teaming up for the fourth time for *Vedha*, which will mark Shivarajkumar's 125th film. *Bhajarangi 2*, made under the banner Jayanna Films, has an ensemble cast that includes Bhavana in the female lead role, along with Shruti, Loki, Cheluvaraj, and a few reputed theatre artistes featuring in prominent roles. The film's cinematography is by J Swamy.

Netflix orders LA Lakers-inspired office comedy series

CE FEATURES

Netflix has given a 10-episode series order to a workplace comedy inspired by the front office of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Written by Modern Family alumna Elaine Ko, the yet-untitled series follows Eliza Reed, the fictional team governor, who has to navigate NBA ownership and family drama with her best friend by her side.

According to Deadline, the story is inspired by the personal and professional equations between the family owners and front office team that together run the Los Angeles Lakers. The project hails from Mindy Kaling (known for starring in *The Office*), Ko, Jeanie Buss (*Lakers' President and Governor*), and Warner Bros. TV.

Ko will serve as the showrunner and will executive produce with Kaling, Buss and Linda Rambis of the Lakers, and 3 Arts' Howard Klein. Jordan Rambis will be a producer. The series is produced by Mindy Kaling's Kaling International in association with Warner Bros.

Rishi's next titled *Nodi Swamy Ivanu Irode Heege*

Director Islahuddin's black comedy being made in Kannada will also be released in Telugu as *Vaddura Sodharaa*; motion poster to release today

CE FEATURES

Rishi's upcoming film which had the working title *Flip Flop* has finalised the name. *Nodi Swamy Ivanu Irode Heege* is the final title of the film directed by debutant Islahuddin NS. The bilingual will simultaneously be dubbed and released as *Vaddura Sodharaa* in Telugu. This will be the next film for the *Kavaludaari actor*, for whom the movie is a first outing in Tollywood. The makers, who are coming up with a motion poster today, have tweaked the title of Shankar Nag's popular directorial *Nodi Swamy Navirodu Heege*.

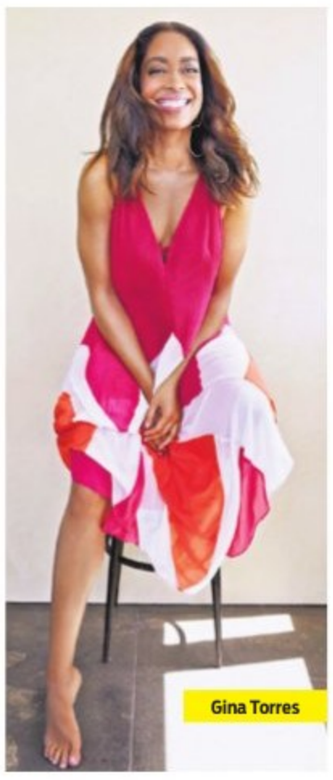
The makers of this experimental black comedy have completed shooting. About the story, director says that while Rishi may appear to be smiling in the first-look poster, there's a lot of trouble behind those smiles." The title explains the mental status of the hero as well as the theme of the film," says Islahuddin, adding, "The story is about a youngster who has lost his lover and wants to end his life. The adventures he goes through becomes comical in nature."

Islahuddin has done a masters in filmmaking in England, and is also a journalist and an ad filmmaker. The film is presented by Swecha Creations and produced by Amrej Suryavanshi under StarFab Productions banner in Kannada and Telugu. The production house was previously associated with Rishi's first film *Operation Alamelamma* directed by Suni. *Nodi Swamy Ivanu Irode Heege* is currently in the last stage of post production, and the team is working on bringing out the first copy.

The film has Dhanya Balakrishna paired opposite Rishi. The duo is teaming up for the second time after *Sarvajanikarige Suvarnavakasha*. The film also comprises Greeshma Sridhar, Nagabhushana, Mahadev Prasad, Bhavani Prakash, and Apoorva S Bharadwaj.

Three DoPs -- Vishnu Prasad P, Dilip Kumar MS and Madhu Sugata-- are handling the camera work. The film also marks the debut of music director Prasanna Sivaraman.

Rishi in a still from *Nodi Swamy Ivanu Irode Heege*


Gina Torres

Gina joins romantic comedy *The Perfect Find*

CE FEATURES

Actor Gina Torres has boarded Netflix's upcoming romantic comedy *The Perfect Find*.

Torres replaces Niecy Nash, who departed following a scheduling conflict. The film is headlined by Gabrielle Union and Keith Powers.

Based on the novel by Tia Williams, The Perfect Find is directed by Numa Perrier, who also wrote the script along with Leigh Davenport. The story follows a 40-year-old woman who risks her high-stakes career, ticking biological clock, bank account as she risks it all for an intensely lusty secret romance with the one person who could destroy her comeback.

Sam Rechner joins Steven Spielberg's *The Fabelmans*

CE FEATURES

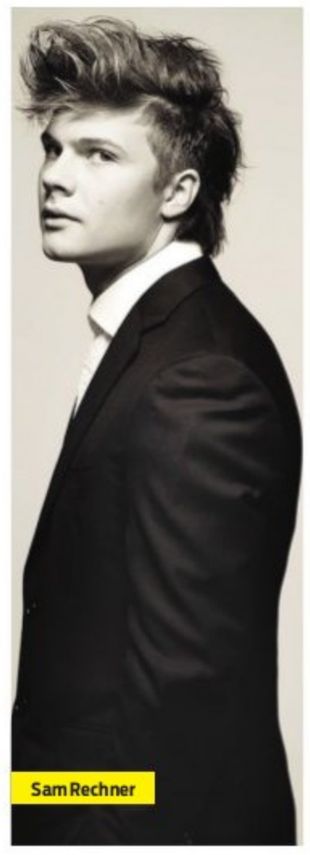
Australian actor Sam Rechner has just been cast as a classmate of a young Steven Spielberg in the director's autobiographical film. The film, which will be Spielberg's follow-up to this year's West Side Story, was titled *The Fabelmans* last month.

Rechner joins a star-studded cast that includes Michelle Williams, Seth Rogen, Paul Dano, Julia Butters, and Gabriel Labelle. *The Fabelmans* is loosely based on the upbringing of Spielberg in Arizona.

The Fabelmans will be Rechner's second film. His first was in the upcoming Australian drama, Ruby's Choice, starring Jane Seymour.

Rechner also has theatre credits, including starring in productions of *Animal Farm* and *12 Angry Men*. Williams and Dano are set to play the mother and father of Spielberg, while Rogen will play one of the director's favourite uncles growing up. Gabriel LaBelle was cast to play young Spielberg last month.

Spielberg co-wrote the script with Tony Kushner of Lincoln and *Munich* fame. Filming on *The Fabelmans* is set to begin this July around the Los Angeles area, and no release date has been announced yet for the autobiographical film.


Sam Rechner

Julia Stiles

Julia Stiles to make directorial debut with *Wish You Were Here*

CE FEATURES

Actor Julia Stiles, famous for starring in Jason *Bourne series* and *10 Things I Hate About You*, will make her feature directorial debut with *Wish You Were Here*.

The film is a romantic drama, based on a novel by author Renee Carlino, who also collaborated with Stiles for adapting the script. The story revolves around Charlotte, a woman who finds herself in a trench, searching for a motivation that seems out of reach. After she has a night of romance and imagining a future with a man named Adam, he ghosts her. When Charlotte finally discovers that Adam is terminally ill, she helps him spend his last days living life to the fullest.

Stiles will not act in the project, which is backed by Phiphen Pictures. The actor previously helmed multiple episodes for the TV show Paloma.

Jack Huston boards Amazon show *Expats*

Jack Huston

CE FEATURES

Actor Jack Huston will feature in Amazon's upcoming drama series *Expats*. Lulu Wang of *The Farewell* fame will direct and serve as showrunner on the series, based on Janice YK Lee's 2016 novel *The Expatriates*.

The project is produced by Australian star Nicole Kidman and Per Saari's Blossom Films and Amazon Studios.

Huston, known for films such as *American Hustle, Ben-Hur* and *The Irishman,* will feature alongside actor Ji-young Yoo in the show.

Set in the background of Hong Kong, *Expats* is the story of an international community whose lives are interlinked permanently after a sudden family tragedy.

It revolves around three women, Mercy (Ji-young Yoo), Margaret and Hilary. Wang, Kidman and Saari will executive produce the show along with Theresa Park, Dani Melia, and Stan Wlodkowski. Lee is serving as consulting producer and writer alongside Alice Bell.